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STATISTICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF DONEGAL,  
WITH  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
THE MEANS OF IMPROVEMENT;

DRAWN UP IN THE YEAR 1801,  
FOR THE CONSIDERATION, AND UNDER THE DIRECTION  
OF

The Dublin Society,

53

BY  
JAMES M'PARLAN, M.D.

Dublin

PRINTED BY GRAISBERRY AND CAMPBELL,  
NO. 10, BACK-LANE.

1802.

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## TO THE READER.

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*This REPORT is at present printed and circulated for the purpose merely of procuring further information, respecting the state and husbandry of this district, and of enabling every one interested in the welfare of this country, to examine it fully, and contribute his mite to its improvement.*

*The Society do not deem themselves pledged to any opinion given by the Author of this Survey; and they desire, that nothing contained in it be considered as their sentiments; they have only published it, as the report of the gentleman, whose name is affixed, and they publish it for the comments and observations of all persons, which they entreat to be given freely, and without reserve.*

*It is therefore requested, that the observations on reading this work may be returned to the Dublin Society, as soon as may be convenient, and which will meet with the fullest attention in a future edition.*

**DEDICATION.**



TO

**GENERAL VALLANCEY,**

VICE PRESIDENT OF THE DUBLIN SOCIETY, &c.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour of inscribing to you the Statistical Survey of the County of Donegal, as my mite of admiration of your deep and universal learning, your universality in the languages and polite arts, and your indefatigable application of those accomplishments to serve the Dublin Society, and, of course, the empire at large.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obliged and obedient servant,

DUBLIN,  
JULY 1802.

JAMES M'PARLAN.





## P R E F A C E.

---

THE subject of soil and surface extended into greater length than I should have thought it could, till I reflected on its great variety and the very great extent of the country. The words *soil and surface* too, I was verbally given to understand, required not only a description of the different kinds of pasture, moulds, and substrations, but also a general view of the face of the country, its improvements, &c.

There were among the printed suggestions of enquiry, given me by the Dublin Society, for forming the statistical reports, two subjects, viz. *education* and *tithe*. The latter of those subjects, having passed it unnoticed in the report, I should not here introduce, but to assure the public, that in all Ireland I believe, certainly in the other counties

counties which I have viewed, and other parts I am best acquainted with, tithe is no where so moderately charged, and collected with such ease to the poor, as in this county. The clergymen send out viewers, according to whose report they make a moderate charge to the landholders, which they cheerfully pay at their leisure, and with mutual satisfaction to themselves and the incumbent.

It is impossible, however, that this could be otherwise, for the clergy of this county, to most of whom I have for some years had the honor of being known, are composed of gentlemen conspicuous for every species of virtue and of worth.

SUGGESTIONS.

## SUGGESTIONS OF ENQUIRY

FOR GENTLEMEN WHO SHALL UNDERTAKE THE FORMING OF

### *AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS.*



#### GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

Situation and Extent,  
Divisions,  
Climate,  
Soil and Surface,  
Minerals,  
Water.



#### AGRICULTURE.

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Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed,  
Course of crops,  
Use of oxen—how harnessed,  
Nature and use of implements of husbandry,  
Markets for grain,  
Use of green food in winter.

PASTURE,

## PASTURE.

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————— how far capable of further improvement,

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Nature of tenures,

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General size of fields, or enclosures,

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Mode of hedge-rows, and keeping hedges,

Mode of draining,

Nature of manures.

## GENERAL

## GENERAL SUBJECTS.

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Habitation, fuel, food and cloathing of the lower rank—their  
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Price of wages, labour and provisions,

State of tithe, its general amount on each article—what arti-  
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Use of beer and spirits—whether either or which is increasing,

State of roads, bridges, &c.

—— of navigations and navigable rivers,

—— of fisheries,

State of education, schools, and charitable institutions,

—— of absentee and resident proprietors,

—— of circulation of money or paper,

—— of farming or agricultural societies,

—— of manufactures, whether increasing,

—— of encouragement to them, and the peculiar aptness of  
the situation for their extension,

—— of mills of every kind,

—— of plantations and planting,

—— of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given to  
them by the Society, particularised in the list annexed.

—— of any improvements which may occur for future en-  
couragement, and particularly for the preservation of  
the trees, when planted,

—— of nurseries within the county and extent of sales.

Price

Price of timber and state of it, in the county,

Quantity of bog and waste ground,

Possibility and means of improving it,

Obstacles to it and best means of removing them,

Habits of industry, or want of industry among the people,

The use of the English language, whether general, or how far increasing.

Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient buildings, or places remarkable for any historical event,

Churches—resident clergy, glebes and glebe houses,

Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and whether the survey is published.

Weights and measures, liquid or dry—in what instances are weights assigned for measures—or *vice versa*.

The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are sold.

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STATISTICAL





Engraved by J. Taylor, Dennybrook near Dublin 1802

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*Inisimianu*

*Gold*

STATISTICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF DONEGAL.



GEOGRAPHICAL STATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

*Situation and Extent.*

THERE are three counties, which for some miles run parallel with each other into the ocean, and constitute the north extremity of Ireland, viz. Donegal, Londonderry, and Antrim. Donegal stretches on the west, and is surrounded by the sea on the north and west; on the south, by the bay of Ballyshannon, and small portions of the counties of Leitrim and Fermanagh, which meet near Belleek; and on the east by the counties of Londonderry, Tyrone, and Fermanagh. Lough Foyle and the Foyle river might be called the natural boundary of Donegal on the east; by those it is divided from Londonderry and Tyrone up as far as Strabane, and

some miles higher up, where the tide is sometimes observed to swell the river. But to this there is an exception; for on the west of the Foyle water a segment of a circle, three miles deep, has been taken off the county of Donegal, and granted to English settlers, on which the city of Derry was built and stands. This little territory is called, the Liberties of Derry; and with this exception only the boundaries stand as stated.

The length of this county cannot be less than about seventy miles, from the county of Leitrim to Mawlin Head.

The breadth differs very much in different parts, from thirty-five miles to twelve.

Ballyshannon, which is within two miles of the southern extremity of the county, is west of Greenwich, long. 8. 2. and in N. lat. 54. 31.

#### *Divisions.*

This county is divided into five baronies, *Tyrhugh*, *Boylagh and Bannagh*, *Kilmacrennan*, *Raphoe*, and *Innishowen*; and forty-one parishes.

*The barony of Tyrhugh*, constitutes the southern part of the county, from Leitrim to the famous gap of Barnesmore, and the environs of the town of Donegal.

*Boylagh and Bannagh*, extends from thence to the sea north and west, including the towns of *Dunkanealy*, *Killybeggs*, and *Rutland*, and the immense tracts of mountain, which darken this scope.

*Kilmacrennan*



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*Kilmacrennan* turns from thence east to Loughswilly, including the towns of Dunfanaghy, Ramelton, and Letterkenny ; including also the Loughsalt mountains, the points going into the sea, called Rossgull and Fanad, the bays of Sheephaven and Mulroy, and the district called Cloghanealy, with all their appurtenant mountains.

*Raphoe*, occupies the whole scope and the best grounds in the county, from Barnesmore, along the Finwater, to the environs of Derry, including the towns of Ballybofay, Stranarlar, Raphoe, Lifford, and the districts of the Blanketnook and Laggan.

*Innishowen* runs from Raphoe north, and forms the great peninsula, included between the famous harbours of Lough-foyle and Lough-swilly.

### *Climate.*

As in Ireland the cold may be said to increase with the degrees of north latitude, consequently Donegal, which forms part of its northern extremity, may be supposed, and in fact is perceived to be somewhat colder than the southern parts of it. It is also wetter, being half surrounded by the ocean, and bestrewed with high mountains.

### *Soil and Surface.*

To give a general bird's-eye-view of this county, its natural division is into two regions, the mountain

and champain regions. The western parts of the barony of Tyrhugh on the sea, with the intervention of Barnesmore mountains, connect themselves with the barony of Raphoe, and form both the champain region ; while all the rest of the county may in strictness of meaning be denominated the mountain region. But this mountain region is interspersed, particularly in the baronies of Kilmacrennan and Inishowen, with fertile vallies and some openings of good lands.

In the barony of Tyrhugh adjoining Leitrim, the lands are deep, coarse, some rushy and wet ; nearer to and about Ballyshannon, they assume a superior quality of soil on limestone quarries : the town and environs are pretty, and the neighbourhood speckled with a few gentlemens' seats. The town has vastly improved within a few years, and is acquiring some degree of importance in trade, the great increase and maturity of which depends on raising a wall to shelter the approach of shipping from the western storms ; a wall of no prodigious extent, or expence, considering the object ; and also on the completion of a canal, between Lough Erne and the sea at Ballyshannon. Subscriptions have been entered into for this purpose, and part of the excavation formed at Belleek.

This limestone quarry extends itself right and left to within five miles of Donegal, carrying a thin surface

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surface of light brown gravelly soil; near to and in many yards about Ballyshannon, the soil is deep and rich; none deeper or richer than the reclaimed parts, and indeed, shame to tell it, within one mile of Ballyshannon the heath and moss look as savage and as sour, on one side of the fence, as the meadow is sweet and luxuriant on the other.

This space of five miles, from Ballyshannon to Ballintra, is in a great many parts moory, heathy, and very rocky, particularly to the south east, where after a breadth of three or four miles from the sea it degenerates into a tract of mountain, ten or twelve miles broad, and coming round by Pettigo, Loughderg, and Fermanagh, to unite with the mountains of Barnesmore. And while I am now on those mountains, I shall travel my reader over the same ridge; upwards of 150 miles in half a minute; for after sloping from Belleek, by the borders of Fermanagh, round to Barnesmore, they then curve making an obtuse angle down to Killibeggs; from thence upwards of fifteen miles below it to that huge western promontory Cape-telling; from thence an immeasurable expanse dilates itself to Rutland and Rosses, all round the sea to Derry, and down to the bottom of Innishowen's Mawlin Head; the same ridge pursues the sea round to Greencastle, from whence interrupted only by Loughfoyle, it sweeps out of view into the county of Antrim.

But

But to return to Ballintra, midway between Ballyshannon and Donegal, Brownhall, within a mile of that dismal little town, is not to be overlooked. This is the seat of Mr. Hamilton, who is descended from one of the early settlers under James the first; and dismal as the little town of Ballintra is, more dismal a great deal and more horridly gloomy, particularly on the south and east, is the country, which surrounds this mansion, but the mansion itself is handsome; there is a small lake in view of the house, the effect of which is highly improved by a river, which winds through the groves of the demesne; sometimes under, and sometimes over ground; sometimes in a smooth glide, reflecting the surrounding objects, and sometimes dashing out of view along precipices thickly overhung with wood. This scenery is called the Pullins: the demesne when well dressed is extremely pretty.

From Brownhall and Ballintra to Donegal, including the breadth from Barnesmore to the sea, the country swells into bleak hills, which, though very high, are many of them covered with a good vegetative soil, deep from ten to twenty inches, on a black, hard, earthy bottom, sometimes indurated to a slaty consistence.

From Donegal, a pretty little town, but of no consideration in any point of view, to Dunkaneely another little town of no note (a distance of nine miles,

## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 7

miles, by from two to three broad, between the sea and the mountains in the barony of Boylagh and Bannagh) the soil is light and poorer than the last described, on a brown clay bottom: rent from twelve to seventeen shillings per acre.

The little stripe last described might be allowed to belong to the champain region; but here at Dunkanealy completely commences the mountain region, which stretches, as already mentioned, twenty miles in that direction, including Killibeggs, to Telling head.

This prospect includes a view of the beautiful and safe harbour of Killibeggs, admitting large ships of any burden up to the doors, and capable of receiving the English navy under the shelter and protection of the surrounding hills.

From Dunkanealy to Killibeggs, and from thence to cape Telling, a distance as mentioned of about twenty miles, where the ocean in that direction terminates the mountain region, the soil of the cultivable glens is a light gravelly till, bottomed by earths and rocks of various colours, yellow, reddish, grey, &c. for which the shelly sea-sand of right proves admirable manure.

In returning from cape Telling by Killibeggs, and proceeding from thence through *Boylagh* and *Bannagh*, to the part of this barony called the Rosées, a gentle sloping heath leads you to a considerable height above the sea, from whence the bay of Killibeggs,

beggs, and the scenery just described, appears to considerable advantage, and produces an enviable contrast with the very high unbroken mountains, and the uninterrupted sombre shade of the heaths, which every where rise before you.

After advancing, however, some miles through this region, one meets some rich vallies well peopled and cultivated, and even some gentlemens' seats; such as Mr. Nesbitt's, of Woodhill, who has a wide handsome demesne, Mr. Hamilton's, of Eden, Mr. Maxwell's, of Castlegolan, Mr. Montgomery's, of Euniskeel, and some others.

From this scene, however, of partial cultivation and life, in approaching still farther northward to Rosses and Rutland by the road of Glanties, one there fortunately meets an hotel in the centre of a savage wild; and this savage wildness extends to Rutland on all sides, a distance of ten or twelve miles, exhibiting nothing to diversify the sombre sameness of the wide extending heaths; as Lord Bristol observed of this ride, presenting "nothing curious to engage admiration, and nothing horrid enough to stare at."

In arriving at Burton port, off Rutland, it was night; in the morning, anxious to look about I saw a new region of scattered rocks and hills, some belonging to the main land, and some separated from it, and from each other, by the ocean: those rocks  
had

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had at top some a thin covering of moss and heath, some few were cultivated to verdure, and innumerable smaller ones lay tossed about in shattered disorder and total denudation.

These are the islands of Rosses; one, in particular, raised its brown head mountain high, at a distance of about two miles from the shore. This, except one, is the remotest, and being the largest is called Arranmore, and contains 600 acres thickly inhabited.

The island called Eddernessfree is well reclaimed, and fattens cows, sheep, and horses for Mr. Mansfield, with only the trouble of draining and application of shelly sea-sand in common tillage. This shews the feasibility of reclaiming not only all those islands, but every part of the adjoining continent, that bears the necessary depth of surface, as all are of the same quality.

The town of Rutland is built on the island of Innism'Durn, containing 183 acres; about a dozen good houses besides stores have been built, but are falling fast into decay since the failure of the herring fishery on this coast. There are in all twenty-two islands, all inhabited except two or three.

In proceeding eastward from Rutland towards Dunfanaghy, the blackest scenes of view, horror, and disappointment succeed each other; the fractured and disjointed rocks look more leaden and more dismally dismantled,

dismantled, and the mosses breathe a browner horror on the heaths.

In proceeding from Guidowr to Dunfanaghy, in the barony of Kilmacrennan, a morning's ride of seventeen miles, the heath gets gradually short, and ceases on the low lands. When one has got seven miles from Guidowr, the aspect and quality of the soil differ in proportion to the length of the heath; at Guidowr it is a perfect black, a few miles farther on a lighter black, still nearer to Dunfanaghy the heath gets shorter, less of it, and acquires a russet or tawny colour; at length about Dunfanaghy, near the sea, there is not much heath, and the general complexion is a sickly green. Hereabout is the district called *Cloghaneahy*.

In all the route from Rosses to Dunfanaghy, the surface, except a few green spots rarely intervening in the vallies, and on the edges of the rivulets rushing from the mountains, consists of a thin coat of peat moss, substrated with a coarse white gravel, under which appear clays, white, brown, blue, yellow, &c. and frequently the undermost bottom visible in the banks of the rivers is the granite rock every where, in what I have seen of the mountain region, to be seen under and over ground.

In approaching within a few miles of Dunfanaghy, one meets some gentlemen's seats; Mr. Johnston's  
romantic



romantic mansion, Cashel, Mr. Swinney's, the Mr. Alford's demesnes somewhat relieve and enliven this scene. Mr. Stewart of Hornhead's pretty retreat is seated on an eminence, sufficiently high to look with very good effect, through some planting and scattered trees, over Sheephaven bay and the seaport town of Dunfanaghy; in the back ground of this scene, a gradual but uneven sweep of sandy hills, granite and crystal rocks, rise to a great height, and terminate in the ocean.

Here is to be seen that awfully frightful and curious phenomenon, called *M'Swine's gun*.

By delapidation or decomposition of part of the rock, time and the washing of the waves have perforated a cave many yards in diameter, which extends about twenty yards into a rock making part of the main land, and horizontal with the levels of the sea at high and low water marks, or nearly so.

This cavity then ascends, and appears by an aperture at the surface of the rock not much wider than a large kitchen chimney.

When the wind blows due north, and the tide half in, this gun of M'Swine's is seen to spout shots of seawater far higher than the eye can reach into the air, with terrific explosion, to be heard, it is said, from twenty to thirty miles, from its alarming effect on the ears I should suppose fifty.

A route

A route of seven or eight miles, through a country the same in every respect as last described, a russet or sickly green for a mile or two near the sea, degenerating southward into a wild expanse of mountain, bring in view some of the improvements of Ards, the seat of Mr. Stewart. I passed from Marble-hill, across an arm of the sea, without a guide, to one of the rere approaches; it was not easy to decide, which most to admire, the rude grandeur of the wooded mountains, or even there the cultivation and dress of the low grounds. A circuitous and pleasant ride through the grounds, of about an hour, presented the splendid mansion of this family; it consists in front of two principal rooms, forty feet by thirty each, brilliantly lighted by lofty and bowed windows; the middle compartment between those two rooms is a very fine hall, not inferior to them in extent, and lighted at top by a large glass dome; this opens to a light handsome staircase, which leads to two stories of suitable sleeping rooms and apartments, varying all in fascinating sceneries of landscape, which appear from the windows.

From this front recedes another compartment, consisting of a breakfast parlour, &c. &c. and up stairs are suites of excellent and convenient apartments, and all the offices in their different kinds complete and handsome as the house.

In

In walking from the house, on the bank of the bay of Ards, to the east shrubbery distant about half a mile, to which a gravel walk leads, separated from the bay by a festooned fringe of shrubs and flowers, the improvement of the grounds, lawns, glens, and thickets, the view of the bay, the rocks and distant mountains of Rossgul, are all picturesque.

In returning, the various intrusions of the wooded points of the demesne on the bay, terminated by the ancient castle of Doe, and at an agreeable distance the mountain of Muckish raising his lofty summit above the surrounding hills, are indeed a charming view.

The grand approach (not yet finished) descends from the rude and ancient forests of the back grounds. It varies so constantly in picture and pleasure, as to elude description, and to be exceeded only by the romantic and beauteous scenery of the gravel walks.

In facing towards the house from the western shrubbery and bathing room, that rustic retreat of exercise and health, the view of the house, taken late in a summer's evening from the Catrock point, satiates imagination.

In a word, the tout ensemble is so totally different from inland views and improvements, that it exhibits a separate species equally unique and beautiful. The gardens, hot and green houses, are in full plight and bearing.

Mr.

Mr. Stewart's absence from home, in setting some of his estates, deprived me of much information in farming, as he reclaimed all this fine demesne, and has in annual succession ten or twelve acres of potatoes, wheat, barley, oats, carrots, turnips, and clovers; but Lady Mary in the most obliging manner sent persons to shew me the demesne and improvements, and in departing from Ards to pilot me over the bay to Doe castle and Rossgul.

In proceeding eastward from the charming retreat of Ards, the Lough-salt mountains rise to a considerable degree of altitude; they are horribly dark and irreclaimable, the rocks, except a little black heath, and a slight scarf skin of moss, being in a perfect state of denudation. The red deer, those ancient inhabitants of this island, are still, I am credibly informed, to be seen in some unfrequented parts of this region, particularly among the mountains, that encompass *Glenwah*.

After advancing four or five miles from Ards, one turns at Leacka bridge due north into the district called Rossgul, leaving Ards and Sheephaven bay on the left; and after traversing this district twenty-five miles round, it appears to be of the same quality, complexion, tillage, and pasture, as Cloghanealy.

This district being almost surrounded by Sheephaven and Ards bays on one side, and on the other by that arm of the sea called Mulroy, it was necessary to return into the continent, in order to get into another

another stretch of country, called Fanad, which is also almost insulated by Mulroy bay east, and Lough Swilly west.

Here, after a range of about fifty miles, I am enabled to state, that the appearance of the country, heaths, verdure and tillage, are of the same complexion and produce, as the two last mentioned districts of this mountain region, Rossgul and Cloghanealy, with this difference, that the mountains here acquire a superior degree of altitude, recede more asunder, and that the interstices are much more fertile.

The soil of those interstices and vallies is either a good vegetative brown gravelly mould, or inclining to a till bottomed by a white gravel, brownish or reddish clay, sometimes slate of various colours, and sometimes soft freestone rock.

Both here and at Hornhead, the drifting sands have covered and destroyed many acres of green grounds. Mr. Ross in Fanad, is now planting bent to prevent the diffusion of those sands.

In coming from Rossgul into Fanad by Lough-salt mountain, after ascending it near the summit, the retrospect of Ards, the bays, mountains, Islands of Torrey, and the ocean, is a delightful coup d'oeil, so much so, that parties come in the summer season from ten to twenty miles to the top of this mountain, to feast on cold meat and enjoy the prospect. On  
the

the side of this mountain is the lake, after which it is called, at least one thousand feet higher than the sea; the water is beautifully pellucid, the most so I ever saw, except that of Hollywell.

A few minutes ride from this lake brings in view a fertile, corny scope of country, extending, with little intervention of very wild mountain, east to Lough Swilly, and south and west to Letterkenny and the surrounding mountains. This is all in the barony, and chiefly in the parish of Kilmacrennan.

The only difference in complexion, soil, or produce, between this and the district last described is, though hilly, its being still more level, and rather more fertile, except Fanad, which rivals it in number and succession of crops.

In approaching Lough Swilly, by Ramelton, a small inconsiderable seaport town, Fort Stuart suddenly appears, the seat of Sir James Stuart, on the verge of this famous lake, if so may be called an expansion of the sea approaching to meet the river Swilly.

The demesne appears to have been all reclaimed; Sir James shewed some heath in the middle of his finest fields. It is extensively planted with much judgment and good effect, and turned to all the advantage, in soil and shew, that its pretty situation and cold mould is capable of.

In

In traversing the banks of Lough Swilly, from Fort Stuart to Letterkenny, some of the low grounds appear to be very fleecy rich meadow; but it is a shame to see in this ride such tracts of dry arable mountain, still in a state of nature.

In this ride, the mountains west and south are widely skirted with cultivation and people, and some gentlemen's seats and improvements ornament the views; Mr. Mansfield's pretty and well improved seat; Mr. Grove's, Mr. Boyde's, and some others. The already described scope of potatoed, corned, and peopled country, with the intervention of Lough Swilly, extends itself towards Derry, and up and down the banks a great many miles, under the general names of *Blanket-nook* and *Laggan*. Those two last districts, however, being part of the barony of Raphoe, do not belong to the mountain but to the champain region, which, after turning from Innishowen, and looking over, I shall be enabled to describe. But in the mean time, I may say of those parts of it, which I see, that the aspect is almost quite green, well peopled, cultivated, and productive.

Derry and its liberties are about eight miles from Lough Swilly, over those two districts. Castleforward intervenes, the seat of Mr. Forward; it is well reclaimed and improved. A little farther forward, Mr. Law is draining, reclaiming, and enlarging a very good demesne; there a few other gentlemen's seats.

Mr. McClintock is prettily seated within four miles of Derry.

From hence one soon arrives into what is called the liberties of Derry, which town and those liberties (as mentioned in describing the limits of the county) were originally part, and naturally should be so, of the county of Donegal, because they are situate on the west of Lough Foyle, which is here the common and natural boundary between those two counties, except alone this patch, which had been allotted to English settlers. As it now, therefore, does not belong to Donegal, I shall only observe *en passant*, that the town gradually rises round a small hill crowned with a handsome steeple and spire. The large wooden bridge, which connects this town with the rest of Derry, on the east of Lough Foyle, has a very fine effect, and highly improves the views, which on approaching Derry and departing from it are enchanting.

North of Derry appears the barony of Innishowen, and many of its huge mountains. In proceeding in that direction, from Derry and its liberties, a wide skirt of well peopled country here slopes from the eastern side of the mountains to Lough Foyle; a similar skirting of verdure and cultivation slopes from the west side of those mountains to Lough Swilly, including the little towns of Buncrana and Fawn.

On



On the eastern skirting and declivity of those mountains, a ride of five or six miles leads the traveller into the mountains of Glentoher; here is an expanse of about four thousand acres of moss and heath.

In the midst of the blackest and wildest part of this glen, Mr. Henry Alexander has chosen the site of a mansion house and demesne; the house is almost finished. Already has he reclaimed into tillage and meadow three or four hundred acres, which have more than reimbursed his expenditure. He is proceeding with an adventurous hand, on a scale, perhaps, superior to the attempts of any other individual in the united kingdom, which, if persevered in and executed, must repay his exertions with honour and profit, together with the pleasing reflection of diffusing among the ignorant natives the spirit of industry and cultivation. For the purpose of increasing his supply of manure, Mr. Alexander has housed a number of bullocks and horses, which are fed with fine heath and a little hay; and is converting into the production of corn and green crops, as much as possible of this sable circuit of demesne. He is determined, in the course of three years, to change the lowering gloom of every prospect from his house into a lively variety of trees, irrigating rivers, and all the charms of verdant pasturage and production.

A ride through Glentoher of half an hour brings in view, among the mountains, a widening dawn of some verdure and cultivation. At the remotest extremity of Innishowen, extending east, west, and north, an arm of the sea, called Strabreagy, here interferes, which separates a portion of this extent into a distinct division, called Mawlin head. By some map-makers this is placed as far north as Fair-head in Antrim. According to the different views which I had of both, this promontory of Mawlin Head does not run as far north as Fair-head.

Just south of Strabreagy, the Rev. Mr. Kennedy resides; a truly moral excellent man, and though on a small scale, he is the patron of agricultural and religious education. If merit is entitled to reward, the Marquis of Donegal has an opportunity in this good man, of distinguishing his patronage by his selection of it; or some bishop, by his preferment, may justly boast of adding one to his usual acts of judicious discrimination.

The ride from Captain Hervey of Mawlin-hall's handsome demesne, all the way to Green castle, on Lough Foyle, shews very little skirting of green ground, and such as it is, poor and unprofitable, except Mr. Young's pretty and excellent demesne, which affords him beef and mutton of the first quality, beside all the other usual necessities.

From

## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 21

From Green castle to Derry, on that side of Lough Foyle, the green fringe between the mountains and it is very narrow ; the soil, when well managed, is far from being unproductive ; it is of various colours, qualities, and substrations, generally a gravelly brown or tilly.

In this line are met several gentlemens' seats ; none, whom the Dublin Society are more indebted to for every wish and exertion to promote their views, than the Rev. Mr. Gooldsberry's, nor myself for their personal civilities,

But the principal part of the county, the most fertile, best inhabited and improved, is that part of the champain region contained in the barony of Raphoe, including Blanket-nook, Laggan, the parishes and towns of Raphoe, Lifford, Stranorlan, and Donomore. This scope extends from the liberties of Derry and barony of Innishowen, to a little west of Ballybofey, comprehending sixteen or seventeen miles long by eight or nine broad. It is not a grazing country, but is thickly inhabited by yeomanry, artizans, chiefly weavers, and a few gentlemen ; and the soil tolerably good for potatoes, oats, barley, flax, and in many parts, particularly along the Fin water, wheat, though not much cultivated.

This tract has every way an improved rich look, between tillage and gentlemens' seats.

Mr,

Mr. Stuart of Tyrccallan, as a farmer and a planter, is entitled to particular notice; much praise is due to him for his wish and exertions to promote in his neighbourhood, and among his tenants, the spirit of industry and suitable education.

Mr. Mansfield of Killygordon has drained and improved a good deal on his very prettily situated demesne.

Sir Samuel Hayes's beautiful seat of Dromboecastle, on the Fin water, is very well improved.

A junction formed between the eastern plantations, by gravel walks and shrubberies, on the banks of the river, and the western skirtings of the woods, would greatly enlarge and symmetrize the whole.

The seat of Mr. Spence of Donomore, those of the Bishop and Dean of Raphoe, of Mr. Sinclair, Mr. Montgomery, and some others, ornament this part of the county.

#### *Minerals.*

I have every where through the mountains and defiles of this county traced the indefatigable Mr. Donald Stuart; a great part of the following discoveries have been made by him :

In the manors of Burleigh and Orwell, the estate of Sir Samuel Hayes, Bart. are the following fossils :

In the lands of Munavay, are two veins, near the  
lime

lime kiln, which look like *lead-mine*; the spar and ochre are visible.

Near this lime kiln, are great bodies of *decomposed limestone*, excellent manure for the surrounding moors.

In the great mountain of Cart, near Letterkenny, are great bodies of this *stone marle*.

There are immense bodies of *potter's* and *brick* clays on the lands of Drumarda, on Lough Swilly; a good *slate quarry* within one mile of Letterkenny, and half a mile of Lough Swilly, on the road side.

On the lands of Dromore, within a mile of Lough Swilly, there are strong indications of coal.

On those wide extended tracts and mountains of Sir Samuel's, are scattered in many places abundance of limestone, limestone gravel, marles, and *man-ganese*.

On Mr. Stuart of Ards's estates, the following discoveries have been made:

*Siliceous sand*—On Muckish mountain, within four miles of two safe and deep harbours, namely, Sheephaven and Dunfanaghy; it is there in inexhaustible abundance. It has for some time been sent to the Belfast glass manufactory. There is now in the bay of Ards a brig almost ready freighted with a cargo of it, for Mr. Edwards of Belfast, who has already proved and approved of it. He now imports none from England, and uses no other but  
this.

this. William Brennan of Ards supplies it at the bay of Ards, for two guineas a ton. Next year, by means of roads, which are to be made, and a trough to run the sand from the top to the bottom of the mountain, he will be enabled to sell it at half that price.

*Lead ore*—On the sea shore, at Ards, in two or three places, are clays of different colours and qualities.

*Soap rock*—Is here in great quantities, but the trials made of its utility speak very little in its favour; here are also some indications of coal.

*Iron ore*—On different parts of Muckish.

*Yellow pyrites*—A large bank of it just north of the town of Ballyshannon. This is on Mr. Conolly's estate.

*Manganese*—In two different places on the demesne of Mr. Hamilton of Lough-eask.

*Lead ore*—Near Portnew, in Boylagh.

*Manganese*—Near Dungloe church, on the shore.

*Lead ore*—Is to be seen on the high mountain called Portnockan, parish of Enniskeel, Boylagh.

### *The Islands of Rosses.*

In the island of Arranmore, is *manganese*, in the yellow park.

*Iron ore*—In the same island.

*Manganese*

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*Manganese*—In great quantities, in the island of Wye.

*Lead ore*—Rich at Mullentyboyle in Glantice. It had been worked in the memory of some old people, by Sir Albert Conyngham, but was desisted from, owing to the influx into the pits of the Onea river, under whose level the pits happened to be; there are other leadmines at Norin, Drumnacross, and one on the middle mountain.

*Iron ore*—In the bay of Inver, in a precipice over the sea.

*Iron ore*—at Croy in Boylagh, appears in the broken face of the mountain.

*Lead ore*—A large rich vein appears in the bank, over the west side of Cashelnagore river in Cloghanealy. It crosses the bed of the river, and runs north-east, not known how far. It smelts easily in a common turf fire, and is within three miles of the sea.

*Lead ore*—A small vein on the demesne of Mr. Stuart of Hornhead, west a little of Mc'Swine's gun.

*Iron ore*—On the lands of Tollobegley, in the parish of that name. It was found in large lumps, which I have seen, where raised by Mr. Johnston's men in making a road, quite near the surface; but whether there are strata or not, how near or how thick, those people were not competent to explore.

This

This lies on good roads. If coal was discovered (which probably will on these mountains), this mine might prove very useful.

*Clays*.—Of different kinds and colours are in the island of Torrey; of some of them the common people make pots, in which they boil potatoes or any thing else.

In different other parts are different clays, marles, limestones, soap-rocks, earths, &c.

### *Water.*

The principal lakes are Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly, although they should, more strictly speaking, be called (what they really are) wide branches of the sea, which advance into the country to meet the rivers, which give them those names; they shall be more particularly treated under the head of Navigation. The other lakes are Lough Eask, a very pretty one near Donegal, and Lough Derg, on which is the famous pilgrimage, of which in its own place.

There is no other lake of any importance in any point of view, ornamental or useful.

The principal rivers are the Fin and the Foyle, of which also under the head of Navigable rivers.

Five or six small lakes in the Pettigo mountains communicate, and give rise to a small river, which runs through the estate of Mr. Atkinson into the  
sea



## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 27

sea, north of Ballyshannon. Another river of this sort, but larger, proceeds from the Pullins at Brownhall, and after passing through Ballintra and Mr. Knox's estate, makes the sea on the shore of Murva.

The Erne water belongs, for about three miles, to the county of Donegal, that is, from Belleek to Ballyshannon, where at meeting the sea it forms a beautiful cascade, and salmon leap; of this more under Navigation.

Several other rivers of no note, in their descent from that wide tract of mountain, which lies south and east of the champain part, between Ballyshannon and Donegal, cross the road between those two towns, in hastening to the sea.

As the mountain region commences at Killibegs, and accompanies the ocean all round those parts of the county, it would be nearly endless to enumerate all the rivers, that have indented their traces on its face; most of these indentures are dry in fair weather, but in times of rain and floods are not only full but overflown. The largest of these are Guidowr and Guibarrow, and are, of all the rest, the most remarkable for annoying those, who have the good fortune of travelling this region.

## AGRICULTURE.

## AGRICULTURE,

*Mode of culture.*

BETWEEN Ballyshannon and Leitrim, the mode of tillage is near the town with spades, and farther up near Lough Melvyn, the long Leitrim loy.

The potatoes near the town, in planting them, are laid on the grass or dung, and then covered in with mould. But in the stiff soil of Lough Melvyn, the potatoes are dibbled with a Leitrim steveen, or *kibbed*, as they here call it, with a *kibbin*; of those implements in their own place. Spade and loy labour they all find more productive than ploughing, of which in this corner there is very little.

North of Ballyshannon to Donegal, various circumstances induce various modes of culture; in all the grounds, which are neither quite too steep nor stony, the common two-horse plough is used to prepare land for grain, and sometimes for potatoes, the weight or tenacity of the soil seldom requiring a third horse; but as a great part of the surface from Ballyshannon to Ballintra is very stony and rocky, the use of the plough is prevented, and recourse is had to the spade culture

## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 19

culture. In other parts, southwest of the town of Donegal, extending six or seven miles along the sea, some of the hills are too high for ploughing, and here also the spade is resorted to; yet it is astonishing to see, how high some of those hills are, against which one sees two horses struggling to drag a plough.

In some parts between Ballyshannon and Ballintra, a very bad practice obtains, of ploughing lea ground for oats, after having rested 7 or 8 years; they get two crops, then let it rest again, and so on.

In Boylagh and Bannagh, the labour is mostly done with the spade, which they find in common with all others to be more productive than the plough; the potatoe-cuts are generally laid on the manure, and then covered in, but sometimes dibbled with a spade, which is here called *kibbing*.

All along the coast of the mountain region; through Rosses, the little tillage one sees is done with the spade, and in the district in that line towards Letterkenny, called Cloghanealy; when the mountains shew cultivable spots, the two-horse Irish plough is the mode.

Every species of drill, and English ploughing and husbandry, is practised at Ards extensively. In Rossgul the country is either so mountainous or rocky, the spade is mostly used, but sometimes the plough.

But

But the remaining part of even the mountain region, that is, the greatest part of the barony of Kilmacrennan, and the two great points, Fasad and Inchowen, in the wide cultivable interstices admit the plough, but in the deep and stony parts the ley is used.

Mr. Alexander's mode of cultivating his black demesne of Glentoher, is with sharp metal ploughs drawn each by four oxen.

It is painful to behold the labour, with which those creatures perform the work; but the quantity of rank, heathy, wet, uneven mountain, which one team ploughs in a day, is incredible.

In the champain part of the county, chiefly consisting of the barony of Raphoe, including all the scope from Lough Swilly, and the river of that name, to the counties of Derry and Tyrone, and up along the Fin-water, the plough is in general use. But near Barnesmore, Raphoe side, and Glanfyn, are miserable countries, mostly refusing the plough, and even to the ley the price of its labour, unless a little on that part of the banks of the Fin.

The experiments of Mr. Wynn Baker of Wynnsfield, approved by Mr. Hamilton, determine, in planting potatoes, a great advantage in laying them over, rather than under the dung.

*Extent*

*Extent of it, and of each species of grain sowed.*

From Ballyshannon to Donegal and Killybeggs, the farms being small and only adapted merely to the consumption of the tenants, the extent is not considerable, except in barley, which they either sell to the brewers, or distil into whiskey; any little surplus they may have of oaten meal, is sold at the market of Ballyshannon.

In Boyleagh and Bannagh, the extent is merely for their own use, and often not sufficient, being frequently obliged to resort to their neighbours, at some distance, to supply their wants in potatoes and grain; not so very often however in potatoes.

The barley, in spite of every apprehension of want, is always consigned to distillation, which they cheerfully consume in whiskey.

All through Rosses, along the coast by Duffagh, indeed all through the mountain region, Kilmacrennan, Rossgul, Fanad, and Inishowen, potatoes and barley are the principal crops; and flax is every day getting more and more into extent, even among the Glenties mountains, where Lord Conyngham and Mr. Mansfield are using every exertion, to substitute the culture and manufacture of flax to the culture and distillation of barley, and to  
its

its consequent very great degree of intoxication, immorality, and idleness.

In Innishowen, the extent of barley culture bears a proportion of one eighth part to the other tillage, which is every grain converted into whiskey and provision for the rent, paying no duty. But in all those parts, oats is commonly grown in a sufficient quantity for the use of the country.

The champain region, including Laggan, Blanket-nook, and along the Fin-water, is quite a tillage and manufacturing country, beside an abundance of potatoes, oats, and barley; flax is grown here and manufactured to a very considerable extent.

#### *Course of Crops.*

*From Donegal to Ballyshannon*, the common course is, 1. potatoes manured with sea weeds; 2. barley; 3. oats. When dung is used as manure, an additional crop or two of oats is obtained.

*In Boylagh and Bannagh*—1. potatoes; 2. oats, or on the sea coast barley; 3. flax, or sometimes but rarely oats: all along the coast through Rosses, the only rotation is, 1. potatoes; 2. barley.

*In Dunfanaghy*—1. potatoes; 2. barley; 3. oats; then after a ploughing or two, 4. flax.

Many of the farms here produce no barley, and most of those, which do, will give but one crop after potatoes.

Some

Some of the lands here, exhausted by the common course of crops, will not only produce a crop of peas, but by so doing enrich the soil so as to be re-productive of oats.

Sea-weeds spread early in winter on grass-lands, and in time of planting potatoes, covered over with wispy, dry dung, will not only produce a good crop of potatoes, and the usual succession, but the potatoes will by this management be perfectly dry and well flavoured.

*In Doe*—A little district of this part of the mountain region, 1. potatoes, 2. barley, 3. flax, 4. oats. The same soil, again manured with dung and seaweed, will produce the same rotation, and so on. Mr. Stewart of Ards's common succession is, 1. potatoes, 2. barley or wheat, 3. oats and clover, 4. clover, 5. clover, 6. oats or turnips, 7. carrots.

*Rossgul*—1. potatoes, 2. barley, 3. oats, 4. flax, 5. oats.

*Fanad*—1. potatoes, 2. barley, 3. oats, 4. flax, 5. oats, 6. peas, 7. oats,

*Innishowen*—1. potatoes, 2. barley, 3. oats, 4. flax, 5. oats. The very best soils of this barony will, in addition to the above course, often produce two or three crops of oats.

*Raphoe barony*—1. potatoes, 2. barley, sometimes 3. barley, 4. oats, 5. flax, 6. oats, and then, either let the soil rest, or by manuring again recommence

the same round of crops. Messrs. Stewart of Ards, and of Tyrcallan, are endeavouring by example to introduce the practice of alternate green crops, and house-feeding.

The little nook called Glanfyn, between the mountains, is indeed a wretched country. Two abortive crops are their only course, 1. potatoes, 2. oats, their soil refusing totally both barley and flax. Their own oats never answer for seed; they must get it from the Laggan.

In the course of my observations in the counties I have looked over, I have been on all occasions sedulous to impress the incredible benefits arising from an alternate rotation of green and grain crops, and their reciprocal influence on each other. But in one of those counties a certain gentleman, whom I esteem very much, and who has considerable influence in two farming societies, has put his face directly against the introduction of green crops, because they interfered, he thought, with the culture of potatoes; and any thing to check them, as the staple support of Ireland, he would not countenance. Being a very bad speaker, it became impossible for me to satisfy him; I know he will read this report, and, if doing so, may change his opinion; it will give me much pleasure, as I know it will benefit the societies he belongs to, and their general objects.

Conformable



Conformable to the established experience and practice of England and Scotland, our ingenious countryman, Mr. Hamilton, has written two essays on that subject under the approbation of the Farming Society of Ireland, to which he is secretary.

But why say the practice of England and Scotland? It has been the practice of remote ages and countries to change crops. Virgil tells us in the first book, v. 82, of his much admired, though imperfect system of husbandry.

“ Sic quoque mutatis requiescunt setibus arva.”

As well from duty as inclination, I have consulted not only Virgil, and other ancient, but most of the modern farmers on this important subject; but I find all, particularly on this subject, condensed and improved in those excellent essays of Mr. Hamilton. One of them is entitled, “ An essay on the subserviency of improved agriculture, to the proper feeding of stock, and the mutual support they may derive from each other.”

His other essay on the course of crops is entitled, “ Sketch of a farm.”

The first essay is in a separate small pamphlet, the second in page 22, of the first number of the Irish Agricultural Magazine; a work, which no farmer should want, because every thing in husbandry, either useful or new, is collected from the best farmers

and writers on it into this publication, and judiciously compressed within very little reading or trouble to acquire a knowledge of, beside several original papers by the author, all for one shilling each number, to be had of all the booksellers.

But to satisfy this sceptical gentleman, or any other person, who could suppose the cultivation of green crops to interfere with that of potatoes, it is only necessary to remind him of the excellent practice, which every year even in Ireland is gaining ground.

By this practice, sowing rape-seed from the middle of May to the end of June will furnish plants in succession, to occupy potatoe ground, as the potatoes are occasionally taken up, from the commencement to the end of autumn: and the same persons, who dig out the potatoes, may bring with them to the field a few rape plants, to put into the ground the potatoes had been taken from.

In the spring the rape is cut down, and given to cattle in the house, at a time, that cannot interfere with any spring crop; thus a second crop is obtained off the same field within one year, which is said to be of an enriching quality to the soil; it gives an ample supply of fodder, and enlarges the dunghill so as to repay at least two-fold any exhaustion it caused to the soil.

Rape beside is not only excellent food for cattle, but very good greens for the poor man's table, and  
being

being of an oily nature is peculiarly adapted to enter a compound, which the poor of Ireland make of potatoes, cabbage, onions, &c. called *kalecannan*.

For the purpose of making room for the early planting of rape, early potatoes should be cultured, and no more of the apple potatoe than is barely sufficient for the summer months; this would be one-fourth of the potatoe garden, and no more.

Winter vetches too may come in after early potatoes, and in poor soils rye.

Mr. Hamilton's Essays are on this subject so extremely appropriate, I am impelled to give a few extracts from them; we read in his Essay on the subserviency, &c. page 1. "As the improvement of stock entirely depends upon an ample and regular supply of nutritious food throughout the year, to be procured only through the means of agriculture; and as successful agriculture on the other hand depends upon stock producing the manure necessary for fertilizing the soil, it must be an important enquiry to examine into their mutual dependance, and to trace out the methods, by which they may respectively support each other."

Mr. Hamilton then, after demonstrating the modes, by which vegetables meliorate the soil, proceeds:

"Green crops being thus found to be necessary towards duly meliorating the soil for the immediate reception of grain, the cultivation of each in alternate

nate order is a happy improvement in modern husbandry," &c. And in page 2.

" A judicious cultivation of the respective green crops adapted to the several seasons, will furnish an abundant supply of nutritious food for the support of a numerous stock, to answer for the different periods of the year. Stock thus amply maintained and properly housed, beside a rapid and valuable improvement, will also yield a profusion of the best manure, which will highly fertilize above double the extent, that had been previously manured for raising these green crops. By reflecting on this momentous subject it will be found, that upon the computation, that the manure gained from productive green crops off one acre, in the course of tillage, will richly fertilize two acres, those in the following year will manure four acres, and again eight acres in like manner. In the course of the rotation, depending on the quantity of ground so manured, will the stock, and also the crops of grain increase nearly in the same proportion."

" Grain in cultivation, succeeding green crops, finds the soil in that apt and mellow condition peculiarly suited to its immediate reception, so as to ensure by well timed sowings an abundant and early harvest. A productive crop not only of itself amply rewards the husbandman, but when early removed enables him immediately to introduce another appropriate

priate to the season, at a time when vegetation is still powerful," &c.

" Stock, when allowed to pasture at large on clover, rape, and such luxuriant crops, commit so much waste by trampling and otherwise damaging them, that the conveyance of food from the field to housed stock is peculiarly economical, as in this mode these crops will feed at least thrice the number of stock by being thus consumed without waste; but among various evident advantages, the most essential of all is, the opportunity of collecting the manure of the stock (which would otherwise be scattered and lost) for the dung-heap, on the augmentation and judicious management of which the prosperity of all, and each of the benefits arising from improved husbandry immediately depends; for upon the abundance of manure the success of every branch of husbandry rests."

In Mr. Hamilton's *Sketch of a Farm* are the following observations, among many others of the most material importance, as well on this subject, as on all the others in agriculture, which he treats, page 22.

" On the question, whether fallows or green crops are the most advantageous preparation for the culture of grain, the animated correspondence of Mr. Fiske and his numerous opponents, as published in the *Annals*, vols. III. IV. V. VI. &c. give much useful and interesting information. The result of this controversy seems decidedly to have proved the superiority

urity of the green crops, which, if kept accurately clean, produce all the advantages, that could be expected from actual fallows, with a valuable addition of a supply of the best food, while they leave the land more fit for the reception of corn crops. Till an improvement so economical and beneficial shall be adopted in this country, the Irish farmer will in vain look for a return from his land adequate to his expense and labour." Here Mr. H. cites an observation of Mr. Fiske's, who according to him says, "*Let the man, who would farm in the best manner for profit, never suffer two exhausting crops (wheat, barley, &c.) to follow one another; let him avoid fallowing, for in my opinion the more the land is ploughed in summer, the more the vegetative food is exhausted.*" Mr. Hamilton further adds, in a note, Mr. Young's opinion of Mr. Fiske's doctrine, who observes in his Annals, III. 49, "Mr. Fiske has not practised husbandry in a blind routine, without thought or reflection: this observation manifests a deep attention; it is perfectly just."

Mr. Hamilton then proceeds to the management of a farm containing one hundred acres, which treatise he divides into four parts: 1. The disposition and division of the lands; 2. The management of the tillage part; 3. The management of the pasture division; and lastly, the feeding of stock. From the management of the tillage part I shall make an extract: a rivulet

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rivulet is to divide the farm into nearly two equal parts, 49 acres of which shall be for tillage, and divided into four parts of  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres each; then as to the succession of crops Mr. H. says, p. 25.

“ Each division of this, in the first year of its cultivation, is to be subdivided into four parts, each of three acres, exclusive of headlands, which are to produce respectively potatoes, cabbage, borecole, and turnips; the potatoes and cabbages to be succeeded by a crop of rape, and in the three following years to undergo the process of barley, clover, and wheat, with *aftercrops* of rape, rye, and winter vetches.”

“ *But the four divisions are all to produce different crops in the same year; for instance, one division shall be under green crops, while a second is under barley, a third under clover, &c. The division, which is under green crops in the first year of the process, shall be manured by the dung collected from the sheep yard and the other stock.*”

Mr. Hamilton further proceeds with equal judgment, accuracy, and minuteness, but dilates beyond such limits as could here be introduced; nor is its introduction necessary, as the original work may so easily be procured, and that the items already cited should be a sufficient inducement to every farmer to read himself the book of nature, and fill his haggard and his purse, by a well-timed judicious course of crops.

*Use*

*Use of Oxen—how harnessed.*

Mr. Atkinson works oxen harnessed like horses, with this exception, that in the *septum narium*, or partition which divides the nostrils, he introduces an iron ring, to which a chord is fastened, by which they lead and work with the help of a collar even the first day of training, as if used for years. Mr. Stewart, of Ards, uses them for all works. Sir James Stuart did work them more than at present, and finds their slowness in working deterred others, as well as himself, from a more general use of them. Mr. Alexander uses a great number of them, chiefly in ploughing up his mountains, and some others use them; all harnessed like horses.

*Nature and Use of Implements of Husbandry.*

The common plough, in all parts of the county where it can be worked, and the spade, shovel, and harrow, are the usual tillage implements.

The only unusual implements in use, and that only in the southern part of the county, are two, the long *loy*, and the *steveen*.

In the clayey stiff parts adjoining Leitrim, this *loy* is used, and is admirably adapted to the necessity for it. It is a long narrow spade, having room for only one foot to work on, with a long handle: this spade is adapted



adapted to cutting a long narrow sod. After the sod is cut, and the loy pushed under it, the workman's right foot is then placed under the neck of the loy, as a fulcrum, while the long handle answers as a lever to jerk off the sod right or left.

The *steveen*, which is here called a kibbin, is a wooden pole about four feet long, pointed at the lower extremity, within about six inches of which a resting place is made for the foot, to push it into the potatoe ridge; into the hole thus made the potatoe-cut is let fall, then the friable mould, and so on. The ploughs and harrows are still capable of much improvement.

Here are the pitchfork, grape, drag, pickax; the *grape* is a three pronged fork for collecting dung and rubbish, for filling and spreading it.

The *drag* is a long grape, curved so as to drag up cut sods out of drains made in bogs and marshy bottoms.

Any other instruments are too common, and too well known to require description.

#### *Markets for Grain.*

The only markets for grain in all the mountain-region are the private distilleries, whither the common tenantry convey all their barley for sale: any redundancy of oats, or oaten-meal, is sold at Derry, Raphoe, Lifford, Donegal, and Ballyshannon, and sometimes at those markets a little barley.

*Use*

*Use of green Food in Winter.*

None; except at Mr. Stuart's of Ards.

*Pasture.*

All over the mountain region very bad indeed, with no very great exception even among the valleys, though many of them extremely good for tillage.

The cattle feeding for twelve months on those mountains, or most of the coarse farms, are seized with a disorder here called *the cruppan*, which is most probably a corruption of the word cripple; for the cattle do become crippled, as if by rheumatic pains; in a more advanced and aggravated state of the disorder they are totally deprived of the use of their limbs; the hair on the back stares; it becomes a favourite resort of the flies; at length an atrophy succeeds, and death.

This disorder, however, is cured by removing the cattle to sweet soils, even sometimes to soils seemingly of the same quality as that which produced it. If, however, the cattle should remain a year on this very soil, which cures the cruppan, it induces another not inferior in malignity, called the *galar*.

The

The *galar* is a bloody urine; the milk becomes thin and watery, and the hair stares; to this succeeds a lax and death.

This disorder by a timely removal to the soil which originally produced the cruppan, is cured, and so on reciprocally.

Cattle, which die of the *galar*, when opened are found to have the gall-bladder enlarged, and skin black. It would seem then, that the *galar* is a jaundice.

Sheep are subject to the *galar*, as well as cows, but not horses.

The grasses and rushes growing on the soils producing the cruppan, I have sent specimens of to the Dublin Society, with the names, by which they are known in this country, written on each specimen; they were five or six in number: the names, as well as I recollect, are *keebdu*, *keebro*, *finternagh*, *ferefia*, *keeb-canagh*, and *tarrant-er-eigin*. There are one or two more grasses, which grow in those cruppany regions, but vanish with the summer, and those, the summer having elapsed before I reached there, it failed me to procure specimens of.

The *keebdu*, from November till March, is the chief food of the outlying cattle, its succulent roots they delight in, and in summer the *keebro* and *finternagh*.

Those grasses, 'tis true, and rushes, grow on soils not productive of those disorders; but then other  
grasses

grasses and herbs grow also, which probably serve as antidotes against their ill effects.

*Cure.*—An avenue perhaps to a cure may open by the following observations.

It has been observed, that cattle occasionally fed upon cabbages keep longer free of those disorders.

Cattle feeding on those hard pastures and sour soils are seen eager to eat pieces of wood, rotten bones, stones, particularly limestone, and alkaline substances.

Sea-wrack cut small and mixed with potatoes, by way of inducement to cattle to eat the wrack, had been known to cure and fatten cattle seized with this disorder.

Thus nature seems clearly to indicate the method of cure; the automatic efforts or instinct of the animal, and the fortuitous benefit arising from the sea-wrack and cabbages, here, as in very many instances, which improved the healing art, guided the industry of man to relieve them.

To this may be added, the certainty of a sourness in the soil, a predominant ascendancy of the gallic acid, to which alkalis are obviously the antidote.

In the mean time, therefore, until a more rational or a better method of cure shall be advised by the Veterinary College, I shall undertake strongly to recommend for the cruppany cattle the use of cabbages and sea-wrack. The sea-wrack could easily be supplied

plied by the children of every family, as but very few parts of the mountain region, that are not contiguous enough for that purpose to the sea.

From the highly putrescent disposition of water, in which cabbage had been boiled, it seems to have assumed and exalted the alkali of the cabbage; I therefore recommend it as the best drink in this disorder, or water strongly whitened with chalk.

But the true, the radical cure, indisputably exists in sweetening the soil by paring and burning, manufacturing and using the great ledge of limestone rock, that runs through all this region.

The pasture of the champain parts is neither fit nor used for fattening, except in a very few instances. On Sir Samuel Hayes's demesne I saw some small cows as fat as possible, on Mr. Young's, and some others; but in general the pasture is only fit for sheep and light and young cattle, and is applied only to grazing such, and milch cows, as this is a labouring, tillage, and manufacturing country.

*Breed of Cattle, how far improved—how far capable of further Improvement.*

In the mountain region the breed is not much improved, as the soil is barren and sour; but I should suppose it capable of *some* improvement in choosing  
bulls

bulls and cows of a good shape, though small and suited to the soil.

But although neither breeding nor grazing is the forte of this county, I deem it right on this subject to mention (*en passant*) that what is called breeding *in and in*, that is within the same family, is for a thousand reasons an absurdity, which is pretty sufficiently shewn in my Report of Leitrim, where the matter became a subject of some discussion; but that selecting cattle of the most improved points, whether *in* or *out* of the same family, for bringing good *young*, is the rational, the approved system.

In the champain parts the cattle are of somewhat a superior description; although I cannot say, that either pains in improving the breed, or the quality of the pasture, contributes to any superior degree of perfection, or that the nature of the soil seems to invite the attempt, yet I conceive, that chusing and selecting the eligible points, in males and females of small cattle for home consumption, would both amuse and amply repay the trouble of the gentry here, not only in the additional luxury of the table, but also in propagating a well-formed easy-fatted breed among their tenantries.

*Markets or Fairs from them.*

January 1. Letterkenny.

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Redcastle.

January

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*January* 4. Castlefin.

——— 12. Aughygaults.

*February* 1. Ballintra.

——— Cloghanbegg.

——— Convoy.

——— Tullyodonald.

——— 6. Dunkanally.

*March* 3. Killygordon.

——— 17. Mountcharles.

——— 20. Aughygaults.

——— 23. Rathmelton.

——— 25. Ballintra.

——— 29. Stranorlane.

*April* 5. Ballyshannon.

——— 7. St. Johnstown.

——— 19. Castlefin.

——— Killibeggs.

——— 20. Mawlin.

*May* 1. Raphoe.

——— 4. Muff.

——— Oldtown.

——— 10. Buncranna.

——— 11. Church-hill.

——— 12. Letterkenny, cattle.

——— Port.

——— 15. Aughygaults.

——— Ardera.

——— 17. Convoy.

*May* 17. Fintown.

———— Tullyodonald.

———— 19. Cloghanbegg.

———— 20. Ballintra.

———— 21. Ballybofey.

———— Carndonagh, yarn, cattle.

———— 25. Rathmelton.

———— 31. Killygordon.

*June* 1. Redcastle.

———— 2. Maghremore.

———— 7. Castlefm.

———— 8. Ballyshannon.

———— Oldtown.

———— 9. Mountcharles.

———— 10. Dunfanaghy.

———— 12. Ballynass.

———— 21. Carrigart.

———— Convoy.

———— Tullyodonald.

———— 22. Raphoe.

———— 24. Mawlin.

*July* 1. Dunkanally.

———— 3. Fintown.

———— 6. Stranorlane.

———— Manorcunningham.

———— 12. Letterkenny.

———— 17. Rathmelton.

———— 20. Aughygaults.

*July*



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<i>July</i>	26. Pettigoe.
————	27. Buncrana.
————	31. Ballintra.
————	— Oldtown.
<i>August</i>	2. Arderá.
————	— Convoy.
————	— Mawlin.
————	— Tullydonald.
————	3. St. Johnston's-bridge.
————	5. Dunfanaghy.
————	9. Castlefin.
————	12. Redcastle, cattle, frize.
————	— Stranorlane.
————	13. Letterkenny.
————	16. Church-hill.
————	21. Carndonagh, yarn, cattle.
————	— Rathfriland.
————	24. Ballynass.
————	25. Cloghanbegg.
————	26. Port.
————	27. Raphoe.
————	31. Killygordon.
<i>September</i>	3. Fintown.
————	18. Ballyshannon.
————	22. Mountcharles.
————	29. Aughygaults.
<i>October</i>	2. Ballintra.
————	— Dunfanaghy.

*October* 4. Castlefin.

———— 5. Rathmelton.

———— 11. Stranorlane.

———— 13. St. Johnston's.

———— 16. Dunkanally.

———— 20. Ballynass.

———— — Oldtown.

———— 25. Muff.

———— 26. Convoy.

———— 29. Newtown Cunningham.

*November* 1. Ardera.

———— — Aughygaults.

———— — Carrigart.

———— — Mawlin.

———— 3. Convoy.

———— — Fintown.

———— — Tullyodonald.

———— 4. Raphoe.

———— 5. Port.

———— 8. Church-hill.

———— — Letterkenny.

———— 12. Killibeggs.

———— — Redcastle.

———— 16. Ballyshannon.

———— — Rathmelton.

———— 17. Dunfanaghy.

———— 18. Mountcharles.

———— 19. Cloghanbegg.

*November*

*November* 22. Carndonagh, yarn, cattle.

———— — Castlefin.

———— — Ramullon.

———— 25. St. Johnstown.

———— 29. Donegal town.

———— 30. Ballintra.

———— — Ballinass.

*December* 1. Killygordon.

———— 2. Convoy.

———— — Tullyodonald.

———— 9. Stranorlane.

———— 11. Muff.

———— 14. Rathmelton.

———— 15. Port.

———— 22. Ardera.

———— 24. Ballybofey.

Those are the markets and fairs according to Stewart's almanack.

The fair of Glantice I don't find in the almanack, but find it noted in my report as the best fair in the county for neat cattle.

#### *General Prices.*

In the mountain region, the common price of milch and fat cows from four to seven and eight guineas, dry cows from two to five guineas, and other cattle in proportion.

In

In the champain parts, milch and beef cows from five to ten guineas, yearling calves from ten to thirty shillings, and so on.

*Modes of Feeding—how far housed in Winter.*

Mr. Stewart, of Ards, feeds cattle and horses, and so do Mr. Stewart of Tyrconnell, Mr. Alexander, and some few others, with turnips, potatoes, and clovers, with the usual interposition of hay, cut straw, &c. Mr. Stewart, of Ards, beside all those, feeds a great deal with carrots.

But the general mode of feeding is with grass in summer, and hay and straw in winter. All through this county the cattle are housed during the winter months; in the mountain region not only during the winter, but in summer too very much, for the double purpose of collecting the manure and avoiding the cruppan, which the people fancy the cattle are more subject to by feeding abroad at large than confined in the house.

*Natural Grasses.*

As the natural division of this county is into two regions, the mountain and champain, so also the native grasses are those peculiar to such soils.

In the champain region are most of the native good grasses, the sweet-scented meadow grass and a few others excepted.

In

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In the mountain region, beside all the *rush*, *heath*, and *moor* grasses, all the *bent*, *hair*, and *aquatics*, &c. &c. some grasses and rushes occurred, which called for particular attention, and therefore under head of *pasture* had been treated of at large; and here I shall only subjoin an attempt at ascertaining the botanical names of those vegetables. As the specimens, however, are to remain in the possession of the Dublin Society, they will turn every matter relative to them to the best account.

*Keebduh*—is the *schœnus nigricanus*, black bog-rush.

*Keebroe*—is most probably the scaly-stalked club-rush.

*Fer-fia*—is the Lancashire asphodel.

*Finternach*—is the purple melic-grass.

*Tarrint er eigin*.—This, as it wants the flower, cannot be ascertained, but seems to be one of the varieties of the *carix* family.

There is, however, one grass more deserving particular notice; it grows on the shore of Innisfree, one of the islands of Rutland, twelve feet under tide-mark of spring tides; it is called sweet grass, and grows to a length of from two to three yards, and about the breadth of a compressed wheaten straw.

The name is very applicable, for it is very sweet, with a saltish mixture, the sweet by far predominating, particularly in the root.

At

At the lowest ebb of spring tides, which particular point of time they attend to, the cattle run instinctively from the mountains and gorge upon this luxury, and do so regularly as often as the recess of the sea-water develops the feast.

The days being very short during my stay at Rosses, and the ebbing of the tide not answering, when I could have got a specimen of it, prevented my being able to procure any. It seems to deserve pursuit, as possibly all the beach of Ireland might after some time prove a luxuriant herbage.

*Mode of hay-making.*

From Donegal to Ballyshannon, the hay is shaken immediately from the swarth, turned and made into grass or lapcocks; here they remain for six or seven days as the weather answers, and then into trampcocks.

Along the Fin-water and all the other champain parts, hay is shaken from the scythe next day, after a turn or two into lapcocks; in a couple of days afterwards shaken out and put into handcocks; and then after two or three days into trampcocks.

Nearly in the same manner is hay treated in the interstices of the mountain region, that are green.

*Dairies, their produce.*—None.

*Prices*

*Prices of hides, tallow, wool, and quantity sold.*

This being a manufacturing agricultural county, hides, tallow, and wool, are only proportionable to the consumption of the county; the quantity sold, of consequence very small, and prices as through most other parts of the kingdom.

*Farms.—Their size.*

In the champain parts from ten to fifty acres; in the mountain region, from 40 to 500 including annexed tracts of mountain.

All the farms lately let to tenants have been to separate individuals; and the tenants themselves have found the vast benefit of separate holdings, and are themselves subdividing many of the old *takes*.

Sir Samuel Hayes, in the manors of Burleigh and Orwell, previously divides and then lets to separate tenants; all ranks are now clear of the advantages arising from separate tenures, and are all engaged in endeavouring to establish them.

*Farmhouses and offices.*

By those houses, as the habitations of the poor are enquired after in another place, I understand  
the

the residence of the inferior yeomanry, and of them it may be said over all the regions, mountain and champain, that they are comfortable and snug; cleanliness about the doors, and in the situation and economy of their dunghills, seems to be among those the greatest want.

*Whether repaired by landlord or tenant.*

Always by the tenant.

*Nature of tenures, general state of leases, of particular clauses therein.*

All those particulars, nearly the same as throughout the other parts of Ireland; the leases being for years, lives, or renewable for ever.

The clauses too are the usual ones, none particular, except against alienation; and sometimes but seldom an allowance for reclaiming bog and mountain.

*Taxes or cesses paid by tenants.*

Quit and crown rents are generally paid by the landlords; all the county and parish cesses by the tenants.

*Proportion*



*Proportion of working horses or bullocks to the size of farms.*

As to the proportion of bullocks, it need not be spoken of, as they are worked only by a few gentlemen; the proportion of horses in the champain and arable parts of the mountain region, may be about one horse to every seven or eight acres.

*General size of fields or enclosures.*

It is impossible to ascertain any thing fixed as to their size; this county being a tillage country, and in the occupancy of small tenantry, the fields extend from one to ten or twelve acres, in proportion as the farms are more or less in partnership.

*Nature of fences.*

In the mountain region the fences are very bad, small turf ditches, and of those very few; as either a person stands out to watch the cattle from damage, or the cattle are tied by ropes to some of the legs, so as to be able to range about a certain periphery, but to prevent their reaching the potatoe or corn sowings; the care also, that the common people take in keeping their cattle in the house, to prevent

vent the cruppan and collect manure, renders fences less necessary,

Even in the champain parts, unless on gentlemens' seats, the fences are very mean clay ditches, or loose stone walls.

*Mode of hedgerows or keeping hedges.*

In the whole county none, except about gentlemens' houses; with them the mode is planting a double row of hawthorn, and sometimes a mixture of crabtree quick in the face of the ditches.

*Mode of draining.*

In this county *common open surface draining* is the only practice.

*Nature of manures.*

From Donegal to Ballyshannon and Killybegs, sea-weed, shelly sand, and dung are the manures; and although this tract abounds with limestone and lime-gravel, very little if any use is made of them.

All through the immense mountain region of this county, paring, burning, and liming are neglected, sea-wrack and a scanty supply of dung are their only manures.

Mr.

Mr. Stewart, of Ards, uses dung and composts of lime and scouring of ditches; sometimes lime, and till for reclaiming mountain, which it does with admirable effect, and in great quantities; and this practice begins to diffuse itself among the poor natives of his district.

In the champain parts limestone is in few places very inconvenient, but the use of it is in very little practice. Mr. Stewart, of Tyrcallan, not only uses it himself in great quantities, but in order to bring his tenantry into the use of it, has it sold to them, manufactured into lime, at a small price.

The Rev. Mr. Kennedy uses lime judiciously in reclaiming bog, and his exertions have induced numbers of the country people to follow his example, who were before strangers to the use of it.

But irrigation is here become very general, so much so, that a resolution has been entered (I have heard) on the books of the Raphoe Farming Society, that a Scotch gentleman, whom they have got, shall not be detained by any member more than one week together, from instructing others in their turn, and forwarding the business of irrigation on their estates and farms; so vast is found to be the benefit of this species of manure.

Paring and burning are almost totally neglected in this county, which, together with shelly sand and other sea manures, the substrating gravel of the  
mountain

mountain region, and not exhausting by too many and injudicious crops, could easily convert those mountains into tillage and verdure.

*Sæpe etiam steriles incendere profuit agros,  
Atque levem stipulam crepitantibus urere flammis.*

Geo. I. 1. v. 52.

By this we see, that two thousand years ago paring and burning was in estimation; ignorance and injudicious management brought it into temporary disrepute, and induced the legislature to enact a law against it. This law should be modified into a certain management and course of crops.

## GENERAL SUBJECTS.

*Population.*

According to Mr. Bushe's return to the Royal Irish Academy, in 1789, the population of Ireland then was four millions and forty thousand, without counting on barracks, hospitals, school-houses, or public buildings; and exclusive of those, he thinks thirty thousand might safely be added to the gross population. According to him too, and the most faithworthy reports he could collect from the revenue officers, the increase of one year's population over another was prodigious; that of 1785 over 1777 was 25,896, that of 1788 over 1785 was 147,162 houses.

If this increase has continued to be any thing like progressive, (and that it has there is no doubt, as its ratio always multiplies in proportion to the stock), at this day the population of Ireland can be little, if any thing, under five millions; and that of the county of Donegal, which in 1789 was estimated at 140,000, may now be supposed to approach 200,000.

*Number*

*Number and size of villages and towns.*

In 1789 the number of houses in this county was 23,521, and although since that period there may be an increase in houses to a not easily calculated extent, the villages, which are about 500, are not on the increase, but dispersing daily into separate habitations and holdings.

The number of towns are thirty; many of them not consisting of thirty houses, large and small; the most considerable are Ballyshannon, Donegal, Lifford, Raphoe, Letterkenny, and Rathmelton.

*Habitation, fuel, food, and cloathing of the lower rank—their general cost.*

The habitations of the poor of Donegal are nearly the same as observable through most other parts of Ireland; many, very many of the natives of the mountain region, particularly near the sea coast, are miserably lodged. For want of capital and of knowledge, to reclaim the fields, that gave them birth, they consequently must resign themselves to the most obvious and attainable means of subsistence, fishing, and the other products of the sea shore; on which, together with very little and very poor tillage,

lage, many of them live long, and perhaps not unhappy lives.

But in very many, indeed in most parts of even the mountain region, the cabins are tolerably snug, but intolerably unclean, as in general the cattle and hogs herd with the family; and in summer, when all the mountains are dry, a marsh of filth surrounds the cabin doors.

Nor does this statement very much differ from that to be made of the champaia region; for there, though snugness and cleanliness is more predominant, the brute and human beings are not unfrequently warmed by the same fire and the same steams.

In England, an act of parliament prohibits the building of wooden houses, because persons and property were damaged and endangered by them. Persons and property, in Ireland, are consumed (though slowly) by filth. But hitherto, no act has enjoined separate habitations for the brute and the man, nor the removal and economy of dung and ordure; which, without one shilling additional expence, could be superintended by the petty constables.

The average cost of building those cabins may be from £ 5 to £.10.

Fuel is every where turf; its cost annually from one to two guineas.

The common food is potatoes, oaten bread, and the benefits of the sea shore, with some milk and butter.

The sustenance of a family, six in number, will amount to an expence of £.15 or £.16, calculating on the average price their potatoes, fish, meal, and butter would bring, if sent to market.

The cloathing is frize, which, at 3s:9½d. per yard, with all the expences, will come to about forty shillings the suit. Some of the young people wear chorded thicksets, and Manchester waistcoats, which raises the cost above two guineas. The women wear druggetts and flannels, of which a suit will amount to about thirty shillings; but the decenter sort of this order, and most of the young women wear stuffs and cottons, which brings the expence to above two guineas.

*State of tithe, its general amount on each article, what articles are exempt and what charged by modus.*

The report to be made of the state of tithe in this county is very satisfactory; the incumbents send persons to view the sowings, who, according to the report made by those viewers, make a conscienciable easy charge, supposed to be a tenth part, which the  
landholders



landholders so willingly pay, that all through the county I have not heard one complaint or grumble.

*Use of beer and spirits, whether either or which is increasing.*

In all the mountain region, as if instinctively addicted to banish the cold, the use of spirits is indulged in to great excess; the interstices of those mountains are a great barley country, which is all converted into whiskey, for the double purpose of drinking and providing for the rent; no beer.

In the champain region the use of spirits is considerably less, of beer more; during the late dearth of provisions, beer or spirits were not so much used, or rather abused in Donegal; they now, however, return to their old practices as cheerfully as ever.

*Price of labour and provisions.*

In the mountain region, cottiers get the grass of a cow and one acre of such ground as they have, with a cabin, for one guinea per year; and about 9d. per day, or 6½d. with meat and drink.

In the champain parts, the common hire is 1s.: 1d. without food, or 6½d. and meat and drink. Cottiers

pay for one acre of ground, grass of a cow, and cabin, from two guineas to £.3.

Provisions are now (Nov. 1801) very cheap, potatoes about 2*d.* a stone, meal from 8*s.* to 12*s.* per hundred, and beef and mutton 3½*d.* per pound.

*State of roads, bridges, &c.*

Nothing can exceed the goodness of the roads of this county. In the mountain region, the materials are every where at hand, and the roads remarkably smooth and excellent.

To this there is but one exception, that is, the coastwise route from Rutland towards Derry; the perils and difficulties, attending a journey in this way, have been faintly described in an account of the soil and surface.

The two rivers, which descend from the mountains to the two arms of the sea, called Guidowr and Anagar, unite into one bed about one mile and an half from those arms up the mountain; a road therefore from those already made along the coast, to join a bridge at the junction of those two rivers, would form a communication extremely necessary between the barony of Kilmacrennan and Rosses, which would save in travelling that way from forty-five

five to fifty miles, particularly in times of neap tides or floods when they are totally impassable.

On Kilmacrennnan side, the road is finished up to the bridge, which would open this communication ; and this barony, beside, offers to build the bridge at their own exclusive expence, provided Boylagh and Bannagh, on their part, brought up the road to meet it. There is somewhere a lack.

*Of navigations and navigable rivers.*

Lough Swilly carries ships of 150 tons up to Letterkenny and Rathmelton.

Lough Foyle is navigable for ships of great weight to Derry ; lighters of 50 tons pass under the wooden bridge of Derry, as far as Lifford ; and boats of 14 ton weight ride up the Fin-water as far as Castlefin.

Another river of the name of Swilly rises in Sir Samuel Hayes's mountain of Cart ; it runs by Porthall, and joins the Foyle at a place called Swilly, near Porthall, three miles from Lifford ; this carries boats of ten or twelve tons up to Ballindrait.

A canal is in contemplation between Lough Erne, in the county of Fermanagh, and the sea at Ballyshannon. The greatest part of the money has been collected

collected by subscription, and part of the excavation is formed at Belleek. This canal, though only from three to four miles long, will open a communication for sixty or seventy miles, between the interior of the country and the Atlantic.

The water of Lough Erne empties itself by a river of that name, which runs from Belleek, where the lake terminates, to Ballyshannon, and near one mile north of it to the sea. This river, by the junction of the sea-water, becomes navigable for ships of considerable burden up to the waterfall, where there is safe anchorage for a great deal of shipping; but the entrance from the sea into this river, called the bar, is for some hundreds of yards so exposed to southwesterly storms, as to render it quite inaccessible during high winds.

This town is, notwithstanding, gaining ground and importance in trade, and would do so considerably more, if a strong wall was built to shelter the entrance of the harbour.

This wall, if once built, would at least double the interest of the sum necessary for erecting it, to Government or any company, that might undertake it, by a toll on the shipping.

*Of Fisheries.*

What is called the north-west coast and fisheries of Ireland belong to this county. Here the herring-fishery has dwindled within the last ten or twelve years to a 100th part; still it varies, one year better, another worse. Mr. Montgomery of Cloverhill, who has been upwards of twenty years deeply concerned in those fisheries, thinks this failure owing to the summer fishing of what the fishermen affect to call sprats; but which he is convinced, and so are other gentlemen, are in reality young herrings: and that this summer fishing not only reduces them in the quantity of myriads, but frightens the survivors away from the coast.

The part of the north-west coast, between St. John's point and Donegal, still produces a summer fishery as abundant on an average as ever. But the winter fishery for some years past has almost failed entirely. In the years 1784 and 1785, the winter fishery produced to the inhabitants of Rosses a sum of £.40000, having loaded with herrings upwards of 300 ships each of those years.

This induced Colonel Conyngham to expend a sum of fifty thousand pounds, in building houses and stores on the Island of Innismacduirn, in the manner of a town, which he called Rutland; and in  
making

making roads, through the mountains, to the champaign parts of the county.

From that period the herring fishery experienced a gradual decline, until in the year 1793 it failed entirely.

Such failures however have taken place in former years, and to those failures in subsequent years have succeeded abundant fisheries: we may therefore not only hope, but conclude on the alternate change of success soon again taking place. A gentleman, with whom I am now conversing, who is perfectly conversant with those fisheries, recollects half a dozen alternations of this sort.

All the western rivers of Donegal are neither navigable nor otherwise of any note, than to produce abundance of trout, salmon, and eel, and bringing to the respective proprietors some small rents for those fisheries.

#### *White Fishing.*

This species of fishing is neither extended nor encouraged on this coast, but, if it was, must prove of considerable importance; as one boat will kill in one day forty dozen of cod, glassin, and ling, in a good season.

#### *Whale*

### *Whale Fishery.*

Great numbers of those come on this coast ; Mr. Nisbett generally killed two, three, and sometimes four in one season, about 20 years ago ; one of the whales however, angry at this invasion of their empire of the ocean, gave Mr. Nisbett's boat a whisk of its tail, and shattered it in pieces ; two men were lost ; the activity and good swimming of Mr. James Hamilton of Eden saved many lives, and among them Mr. Nisbett's, who was the last picked out of the waves. This accident put an end to his whale fishing.

In the course of whale-fishing, the sunfish, an animal from thirty to forty feet long, are caught in great numbers; from the liver of this creature is extracted from one tun to one tun and an half of oil.

The average value of a whale is, £.750 : 0 : 0  
 sunfish                      45 : 10 : 0

As the sunfish are seldom caught, except by boats belonging to the whale fishery, and as one whaler, with the usual number of boats, will generally catch three or four whales, with forty sunfish, and deducting £.500 for every expence, the nett annual profits of one whaler will be £.4300

## Salmon

*Salmon Fishery.*

That at Ballyshannon, when last rented, brought annually £.1083, : 6s. : 8d. It is now in the hands of Mr. Conolly, and has been for the two last years much more productive.

The eel fishery there sets at £.325, : 10s. : 6d. yearly.

*State of Education, Schools, and Charitable Institutions.*

To every parish in all the diocese of Raphoe, which in the county of Donegal extends from the Erne water to Fanad, a scope of fifty miles by considerable breadth, a legacy has been left by Major Robinson, son to a clergyman of Donegal town, by the interest of which legacy or sum left, £15. yearly are appropriated to one schoolmaster, in each parish throughout the diocese, for the instruction of children of all persuasions.

Though Major Robinson has been dead upwards of seven years, the legacy to the teachers only commenced last year; and the few schoolmasters, who have been appointed, receive, as I have heard, only £10. instead of £15.

In



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In Raphoe 'tis said there is another endowment, of about £.600 per annum, and *there* no regular school has been kept during the last twenty years; by whom this endowment was made I forget.

I don't say from my own knowledge, that those endowments are mismanaged and abused, but certainly I have been informed it was so; this, however, I say from myself, that if a controuling power is any where invested, it is called to look round the state of education in Ireland, to inquire into the foundations and endowments designed for its promotion, and, if monopoly does exist, or peculation, not only to prevent but to expose and punish it.

The rich require no endowed schools; they can pay for their education; but £.600 a year could establish thirty schools in the remotest and most ignorant parts of the country, for the instruction of the poor in the principles of Christianity and farming, allowing each schoolmaster £.20 a year.

A proper revisionary survey, and a few gleanings of some thousands, which I am well assured could be made over Ireland, might furnish ample means, with due economy and regular distribution, for the instruction of all the poor of this country in the plain rudiments of all the learning necessary for them.

In Lifford are two endowments, one for Greek and Latin, the other for English; the English school is kept,

kept, the other not: those endowments were instituted by Sir Richard Hansard.

In the parish of Raith is a charter school for thirty boys, regularly paid.

The Rev. Mr. Kennedy, near Mawlin-head, among the other benefits he is of in that neighbourhood, keeps up regularly his parish school, and uses his best efforts to establish schools every where in the country, for the instruction of children in the principles of Christianity and farming.

The state of education in the mountain region is much more backward, than in any other part of Ireland, that I am acquainted with; in the remote and sequestered glens, the inhabitants being only few and scattered, and unable to employ teachers, are indeed in a very degrading state of ignorance; in the glens even, that are more cultivable and inhabited, the parents complain of inability to pay four or five shillings yearly to the schoolmaster; and beside, three times as much labour, as in the champain parts, is here necessary to produce the same quantity of potatoes and corn, both of a worse quality and less nutritive; it becomes then necessary for those people to eat at least one-third more of those bad potatoes and bread, to supply nature in quantity, where the quality is defective: thus labour is multiplied, with all the other good fortune of those people, and the pressure  
of

## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 77

of it is so urgent, that the children are from childhood doomed to constant participation in the toil of working out this meagre subsistence, and consequent privation of every opportunity of rising to their own level.

Mr. Stewart, of Tyrcallan, has established in his neighbourhood, at his own expense, two schools, one for male, another for female children.

For the females a very neat house is fitted up, in the town of Stranorlane, where they are instructed by a female in reading, writing, arithmetic, sewing, and such other matters as are suited to their situation.

The males are taught in another part of the neighbourhood; but in order not to interfere with the necessary labours of the short days, they are in the early hours of winter nights instructed in those points, that are best suited to their condition.

### *Of absentee and resident Proprietors.*

#### *Barony of Tyrhugh.*

##### ABSENT.

Conolly, Right Honorable Thomas

Dickson, Major, Woodville

Folliot, Mr.

Sudley, Lord

##### RESIDENT.

## RESIDENT.

Atkinson, Mr. Cavangarden  
 Coane, Mr.  
 Dickson, Mr. James, Ballyshannon  
 Hamilton, Mr. Brownhall  
 Hamilton, Mr. Lough-eask  
 Jones, Mr. Cherrymount  
 Major, Mr. Ballyshannon  
 Reynolds, Mr. Coolbeg  
 Seely, Mr. Cherrymount  
 Tredenick, Mr.

*Boylagh and Bannagh.*

## ABSENT.

Conyngham, Lord  
 Harcourt, Mr.  
 Murray, Mr.

## RESIDENT.

Hamilton, Mr. Fintra  
 Hamilton, Mr. Eden  
 Hamilton, Mr. Brucklass  
 Maxwell, Mr. Castlegolan  
 Montgomery, Mr. Cloverhill  
 Montgomery, Mr. Hall  
 Mac Dowell, Mr. Killibeggs

Montgomery,

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Montgomery, Mr. Enniskeal

Nisbett, Mr. Woodhill

Nisbett, Mr. Kilmacreddan

*Kilmacrennan.*

ABSENT.

Babington, Mr.

Brooke, Mr.

Cooper, Mr.

Clements, Lord

Hervey, Mr.

Hatfield, Mr.

Knox, Mr. Prehend

Norman, Mr.

Richardson, Mr.

RESIDENT.

Alfert, Mr. Ballyconnel

Boyd, Mr. Gortlee

Chambers, Mr.

Colquhoun, Mr. Letterkenny

Donlevy, Mr. Letterkenny

Grove, Mr. Castlegrove

Johnston, Mr. Cashel

Mansfield, Mr. Castlereau

Patten, Mr.

Ray, Mr. Oakpark

Stuart,

Stuart, Sir James, Fort Stuart

Stuart, Mr. Ards

Stuart, Mr. Hornhead.

*Raphoe.*

ABSENT.

Abercorn, Lord

Delap, Mr.

Erne, Lord

Galbraith, Mr.

Hervey, Mr.

Hervey, Mr.

Law, Mr.

Lesley, Mr.

Lifford, Lord

Lenox Conyngham, Mr.

Mountjoy, Lord

Pratt, Mr.

Scott, Mr.

Styles, Sir Charles

Wicklow, Lady

Young, Mr. Alexander

RESIDENT.

Allot, Dean of Raphoe

Browne, Mr. Maracallan

Chambers, Mr. Rockhill

Forward,

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Forward, Mr.  
Hayes, Sir Samuel, Drumboe castle  
Hawkins, Bishop of Raphoe  
Johnston, Mr. Stranorlane  
Kinkade, Doctor  
Knox, Mr. Ballybofey  
Mansfield, Mr. Killygordon  
M'Clintock, Mr.  
Montgomery, Mr. Convoy  
Nisbett, Mr. Greenhill  
Sinclair, Mr.  
Stuart, Mr. Tyrcallan  
Young, Mr. Mounthall

*Innishowen.*

ABSENT.

Donegal, Marquis of

RESIDENT.

Cary, Mr.  
Cary, Mr.  
Hervey, Captain  
Hart, Mr.  
Maxwell, Colonel  
Montgomery, Mr.  
Todd, Mr.  
Young, Mr.

*Of Circulation of Money or Paper.*

Money and paper are equally current, except in the mountain region, where I am sorry to see the degree of ignorance so great, that they totally refuse the currency of paper, being in general quite illiterate.

*Of farming or agricultural Societies.*

In this county there are two farming societies, the *Tyrhugh*, and *Raphoe*.

The proposed scheme of the *Tyrhugh* society is here subjoined, and the premiums offered by that of *Raphoe*.

*Tyrhugh Farmers Society*.—At a meeting of the resident gentlemen of the barony of *Tyrhugh*, holden in *Ballyshannon*, on Saturday the 24th day of May, 1800, it was agreed, that a society should be established, for the encouragement of industry and farming amongst the inhabitants of the barony, and a fund raised by subscription, from which premiums shall be given to the most deserving.

That every person, who subscribes a sum not less than half a guinea annually, shall become a member of the society, and continue such, so long as he shall think proper to pay his subscription.

The



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The following gentlemen are chosen as a committee, to carry the plans of the society into execution, viz.

James Hamilton, Esq. Brown-hall.

William Tredenick, Esq.

John Atkinson, Esq.

Hewetson Reynolds, Esq.

John Major, Esq.

James Dickson, Esq.

John Allingham, junior, Esq.

James Forbes, Esq.

That James Dickson, of Ballyshannon, Esq. be appointed treasurer.

That the committee be requested to make known the intentions of the society to such gentlemen as have properties in the barony, and to solicit their aid.

That there be two meetings of the society holden in each year, one in Ballyshannon, and one in Donegal; and that on each of these days, a plain farmer's dinner shall be provided for such members of the society as chuse to remain.

That the first meeting be holden on the first Monday in November, 1800, at the house of Mrs. Pye, in the town of Ballyshannon, and that all the gentlemen and farmers are requested to meet at the hour of twelve o'clock precisely.

That all subscriptions be paid to the treasurer, on or before the first day of November, 1800; in order that the committee may know what sums they can allot to the different premiums.

That it is the intention of the society to hold out encouragement, and give premiums for the following purposes :

For a linen market in Ballyshannon.

For good inclosures and quick-set hedges.

For draining ground.

For growing wheat.

For growing clover.

For the improvement and watering of meadow land.

For reclaiming mountain and bog.

For the cleanest and neatest farm houses and farm yards.

For the best and cleanest labourers or cottiers cabins (gentlemens' lodges excepted).

To the best farmer's servants.

To the best female servants or spinners.

For the best bull.

For the best ram.

For the best draft stallion.

For the best inclosed kitchen garden.

For the best fallow garden.

For raising forest trees and thorn quicks for sale.

The

The committee request, that all communications to them by letter may be addressed to the treasurer.

*The Raphoe Farming Society.*—At the last meeting held in Raphoe the 25th of June, ult. having taken into consideration the plan of apportioning the premiums, offered by the society for the improvement of agriculture, which had been adopted at the preceding meeting; and it appearing, that that mode was unfavourable to the claims of the lower classes of farmers, whose interest it is a principal object of the society to promote, it was resolved, therefore, that instead of the former plan the following arrangement be adopted, of which all, who intend to become claimants, are requested to take notice:

The division into classes as before, to be

Class I. Gentlemen of estates and gentlemen farmers.

Class II. Persons living chiefly by agriculture, paying above £.20 a year rent.

Class III. Persons paying above £.10, and under £.20.

Class IV. Persons paying under £.10 a year rent.

*List of Premiums.*—First, to the person of the fourth class, who shall have the cleanest and neatest cottage, and best inclosed garden, well stocked with the usual garden produce, three guineas.

For the second best, two guineas.

For the third best, one guinea.

*Second*

*Second for Ditching.*—To the person of the second class, who between the first of May, 1801, and the first of May, 1802, shall have made upon his or her farm the greatest quantity of ditches, not less than fifty perches statute measure, the ditch to be six feet wide by five feet deep, with a sufficient bank well planted with thorn quicks and forest trees, five guineas.

For the next greatest number, not less than fifty perches, by a person of this class, four guineas.

To the person of the third class, who in like manner shall have made the greatest quantity, not less than thirty perches, five guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than thirty perches, four guineas.

To the person of the fourth class, who in like manner shall have made the greatest quantity, not less than twenty perches, five guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than twenty perches, four guineas.

*Third, for cultivating Clover.*—To the person of the third class, who shall have under a good crop of clover, in spring 1802, which had been sown with red clover seed in spring 1801, the greatest quantity of land, not less than two roods, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than two roods, two guineas.

To

To the person of the fourth class, who in like manner shall have the greatest quantity of land under clover, not less than one rood, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than one rood, two guineas.

*Fourth, planting Osiers.*—To the person of the third class, who shall before the 20th of March, 1802, have prepared and well inclosed the greatest quantity of land, not less than one rood, and planted the same with good sets of the different kinds of osiers, not less than fifty to a square perch, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than one rood, planted in like manner, two guineas.

To the person of the fourth class, who in like manner shall have planted the greatest quantity, not less than half a rood, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than half a rood, two guineas.

*Fifth, reclaiming Mountain.*—To the person of the third class, who between the first of May, 1801, and the first of May, 1803, shall have reclaimed, and brought into cultivation, the greatest number of acres, not less than two, of mountain, or mossy ground, that had not before been in cultivation, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than two acres, two guineas.

To

To the person of the fourth class, who in like manner shall have reclaimed the greatest quantity, not less than one acre, four guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, not less than one acre, two guineas.

*Sixth, for liming Land.*—To the person of the second class, who between the first of January, 1801, and the first of May, 1802, shall have limed the greatest quantity of land, and have laid thereon at the rate of not less than 100 barrels of slacked lime to the acre, five guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, three guineas.

To the person of the third class, who in like manner, and with like quantity, shall have limed the greatest quantity of land within the year, five guineas.

For the second greatest quantity, by a person of this class, three guineas.

To the person of the fourth class, who in like manner shall have limed the greatest quantity of land, five guineas.

For the next greatest quantity, by a person of this class, three guineas.

*Seventh.*—To the person, who by the first of May, 1803, shall have prepared the greatest quantity of land, not less than two acres, within the barony, for a public nursery ground; and shall have the same sufficiently

sufficiently stocked with the usual variety of forest trees and thorn quicks for sale, thirty guineas.

*Eighth.*—To the person, who may appear most properly qualified to instruct the farmers in the application of water, for the improvement of grasslands, who shall come to and reside within the barony, at least six months previous to the first of May, 1802, for the assistance of such persons within the barony, as may chuse to employ them in watering the grounds, twenty guineas.

*Ninth.*—To the best plough-wright, who must be resident within the barony six months, previous to the first of February, 1802, ten guineas.

*Tenth.*—To the labouring servant, who shall have lived the greatest number of years, not less than five, in the same service, and behaved with honesty, sobriety, and industry, during the time, three guineas.

To the servant, who shall have lived the next greater number of years, &c. &c. two guineas.

For the third greatest number, one guinea.

In examining the different claims, the committee will always attend to the quality of the work, or crop, and will consider themselves authorised to set aside any claim, where the work seems to have been ill executed, or the produce of a bad quality, if the failure appears to have arisen from negligence or fraud.

The

The claims for premiums will be examined by the committee, and their report made to the society thereon, at their meeting, on the 25th of June, 1802, with the exception of such claims as cannot be determined until the next year. Such claimants as may then appear to be entitled to premiums, will be declared by the society, and the premiums will be paid immediately after by the treasurer. All persons intending to claim, must give notice of their intention to the secretary, on or before the first day of April next, that the committee may have time to examine into the different claims, and report to the society thereon. (Signed by order) John Kincaid, secretary. July 12, 1801.

*Of Manufactures—whether increasing.*

The staple manufacture of the county is that of linen and yarn, which is every day increasing more and more.

The stocking (woollen) manufacture is very considerable in Boylagh, and brought to high perfection; the women thereby contribute to provide for the rent: they are sold at from three shillings to seven shillings per pair.

Mr. Richard Nisbett, of Woodhill, on some property of his in Boylagh, found a tenant of his lately at work twisting and making ropes with his fingers of  
bog



bog-fir ; he shewed me some of them, which seemed extremely well executed, and is determined to procure for this industrious man the necessary tools and assistance to forward his manufacture.

Kelp is a considerable manufacture around the north-west coast. Mr. Stuart of Maghery, in Rosses, has introduced a method of burning sea-weed in a very simple, and, it was thought, a very economical manner, by which the same fire dresses and burns the weed ; but the expence of fuel was found to exceed any benefit arising from it, which suppressed this attempt.

Mr. Montgomery, of Clover-hill, had during the fisheries three salt-pans in full and extensive work ; Mr. Allingham, near Ballyshannon, another ; they now do not manufacture near so much.

But *whiskey*—particularly in the mountain region, and all round the coast, is the chief manufacture. It is by running their barley into this beverage they provide for one half year's rent. This is therefore a tax raised by the rich on the morals and industry of the poor ; on the morals, as far as it ministers to intoxication and disorder ; on industry, in as much as the growth of flax, and its manufacture, and the manuring and improvement of lands are only secondary to this nefarious practice.

*Of encouragement to them and the peculiar aptness of the situation for their extension.*

I hold, that *whiskey making*, and *whiskey drinking*, are virtually encouraged, in as much as they are not suppressed, and the deluded victims of ignorance and intoxication not compelled to resort to other means of providing for their rents. Suppose, rearing and manufacturing flax, and improving by the help of lime (which is no where out of their reach) those mountains, among which they are either drunk or starving.

Lord Conyngham and Mr. Conolly have done a great deal here to encourage the linen trade. Lord Conyngham has given looms to his tenants, and lends them money to carry on this trade, which already is in a very considerable degree of forwardness, particularly in a part of the mountain region called Glantice.

To give maturity to such plans of encouragement as this, would enrich the tenants, their landlords, and the country at large, more than can at first sight be perceived.

Even furnishing tenants with looms to weave their own yarn, will produce *a surplus saving and enrichment,*

*ment, annually, to the amount of their whole year's rent.*

In widely extended estates, such as Lord Conyngham's, suppose the produce of yarn £.10,000, *that* manufactured into linen, (which may be done by the inhabitants at times they could not work abroad) would produce an encrease sum of £.2700, calculating on a difference of two-sevenths between the raw and manufactured material.

This consequently would not only enrich the working individual, but also bring an influx and circulation of money into the country.

Mr. Conolly also has established a linen manufactory ; twenty houses at the Nadir and Corlea, near Ballyshannon, with two looms in each house, and a certain portion of land.

The premiums offered by the Tyrhugh Society, for establishing a linen market at Ballyshannon, must contribute very much to the advancement of that branch.

As to the aptness of situation for the extension of those manufactures, nothing can be more peculiarly fitted than this county is ; roads, water, markets, bleach-greens, every where not inconvenient, kelp, and limestone to manure the mountains, for the production of the raw material.

*Of mills of every kind.*

There are every where plenty of flax and corn mills, some clothiers, and only two flour mills.

*Of plantations and planting.*

From Donegal to Ballyshannon, none worth mentioning, except at Brownhall, a little but well arranged ; nor is there any that claims notice on the north-west coast, or mountain region. I have observed on the western coast of Ireland, that plantations grow in the face of the storms and wind's eye ; but the *north-west* blast seems totally destructive of every effort to secure the vegetation of young trees. Grow they will, as high as the skreen, which keeps off the north blast, is impervious to it ; higher they will not grow, but are bent in a south-east direction, level with the top of the skreen.

But in situations more exposed than where I have seen those trials, roots and trunks of trees are seen, which certainly grew there !

In the island of Arranmore, and in different parts of the opposite continent, where now the tide flows over from four to five feet, and right in the teeth of  
the

the north-west storms, are to be seen large stumps of trees! *there* trees now will positively not grow! It would then seem an object of enquiry, what is the change in this climate, or situation of our globe, which produced this effect?

At Ards, the seat of Mr. Stuart, are some ancient woods and plantations of great extent. At Fort Stuart, the seat of Sir James Stuart, are some very flourishing and well disposed plantations. At the Bishop of Raphoe's, there are some full grown timber trees.

But Mr. Stuart, of Tyrcallan, exceeds all this county, and perhaps any individual of Ireland for planting. He has lived here but a very few years, yet already has he planted upwards of one hundred acres of birch, oak, ash, &c. His nursery, containing sixteen acres, is now at full growth for a succession of planting out annually twenty acres.

Sir Samuel Hayes's woods and plantations are extensive and well dressed.

Mr. Mansfield has some woods and plantations; Mr. Spence and a few others.

*Of the effects of the encouragement heretofore given them by the Society, particularized in the list annexed.*

This list is as follows :—

To Mr. F. Fawcett, planting Danish forts, 13P. planted, 17P. enclosed, 1791.

To Henry Stewart, planting forest trees, 18A. 1799.

Both are very well enclosed, preserved, and in full growth.

There is a little part of the high hill over Mr. Stewart's, rather exposed to the north-west, where the trees are not very luxuriant. But if hundreds of plants may recompence for one, Mr. Stewart might freely be excused, if the 18A. decayed altogether.

*Of any improvement, which may occur for future encouragement, and particularly for the preservation of the trees when planted.*

Trees planted along the roads, so as not to injure the road or each other, would admirably beautify the country, and this would be very little additional

tional trouble to the road makers: building a few stones, or a mound of earth round them, would be full enough security from cattle; Grand Juries could regulate the purchase of plants, so as to be a very trifling expence to the county.

As to the preservation of trees, when planted, two things only are necessary, shelter, and good enclosures.

Broom, for young plants, is a thick shelter and fast grower; horse chestnut, but particularly in the outward rows; I have seen alder and Canada-poplar an excellent security to growth.

*Of nurseries within the county, and extent of sales.*

At the Nadir, near Ballyshannon, there is a large well assorted nursery. The extent of sale into the counties of Fermanagh, Leitrim, and Sligo, is considerable.

I don't know of any other *public* nursery in the county. Mr. Stewart supplies his tenants gratis.

Mr. Sinclair, beside being an extensive and notable improver of his estate, has also, I have heard, a very good taste for rearing and planting out young trees. He had not been at home when I passed through his part of the country, else I should have waited on him to see those improvements.

*Price of timber and state of it in the county.*

In the whole county there is no timber for sale, unless imported deal, planks and boards; the boards about two shillings each, the planks by the ton at Dublin prices.

*Quantity of bog and waste ground.*

From Belleek to Donegal, are ten miles of mountain by ten broad. From Killybeggs round by Cape-telling to Green-castle, seventy miles by ten broad, all which, according to the calculation of Mr. Hanlon, an expert experienced surveyor, produce not less than 721,200 acres bog and mountain.

*Possibility and means of improving it.*

From Belleek to Donegal, round by Barnesmore, a deep soiled improveable mountain, already a good deal intersected with roads, and the limestone within reach.

From Killybeggs, round by Cape-telling to Rosses, Fanad, and Innishowen, the mountains are all either within



within reach of sea-manures, weeds, and shelly sea-sand, or else intersected with ledges of limestone rock; consequently, where there is any depth of soil, those mountains are all reclaimable.

There are no doubt some extensive tracts of naked granite rocks, particularly in Rosses; and as it is an acknowledged fact, that *God does nothing in vain*, I shall hope to see some marginal note, in the revision and correction of this report, explaining the use of those naked tracts.

*Obstacles to it, and best means of removing those obstacles.*

One of the principal obstacles is, a want of capital and knowledge in the poor, and of spirit and enterprise in the rich.

Lord Conyngham is certainly essaying a very good method for removing a very material obstacle, viz:—drunkenness and idleness, by using the most laudable exertions to substitute the culture of flax to that of barley; barley and whiskey, as it has appeared, being the bane of the mountain region.

Emigration is a great obstacle to reclaiming bogs and mountains. In the course of last year, upwards of 4000 persons left the single port of Derry, according to the best information the custom-house officers of that town could give me.

The best means of removing this obstacle is, to keep the Irishmen in their own country, and to encourage them by long leases, allowance and instruction in reclaiming, to prefer their own country to another ; if superfluous grazing was diminished, it would compel the graziers to give to *man* a turn of the fine fields so long occupied by the bullocks, because he would find it his interest so to do.

*Habits of industry or want of it among the people.*

In the mountain region, where the culture of barley, and use of whiskey, and consequent intoxication are suffered to predominate, industry and the habits of it are shamefully degraded. In the champain parts, where agriculture and manufactures employ the time of the peasant, and repay his labour, industry and all its habits prevail ; even in those parts of the mountain region called Glantice, where the linen manufacture is gaining ground, drunkenness and idleness are decreasing considerably.

This shews, that laziness and immorality are not inherent in the natives ; instruction and capital only are wanting to induce them into the habits and spirit of industry.

*The use of the English language, whether general  
or how far encreasing.*

In the mountain region the English language is very little known; parents would wish to instruct their children, but are too poor to pay for any education for them; in some instances; in many parts there are no schools, and sometimes where they are, the children cannot be spared from working for the potatoe and barley.

In the champain parts the English is quite general; the Scotch twang is the vulgar accent of this county.

*Account of towers, castles, monasteries, ancient  
buildings, or places remarkable for historical  
events.*

*Kilbarren castle*—Two miles north-west of Ballyshannon, built by O'Skinnees, on a precipice over the sea; it does not seem to have been strong or important; very few only of the ruins remain.

*Donegal castle*—Built by O'Donnel about the twelfth century; it is a very pretty but very irregular building, and situated in a beautiful view of the bay of Donegal.

*Castle Mac Swine*—Was built on a point little  
broader

broader than its foundation, which jets a few yards into the sea, within half a mile west of Dunkanally; the walls are nearly quite ruined.

*Castle of Dungloe*—At Portdungloe in the parish of Templecrane near Rutland; here are the ruins of an ancient building; near this have been fished up several brass cannon, said to have belonged to the Spanish armada, and this seems the more true as they bore the Spanish arms.

At Lough Rus, town of Cranaghboy, are the ruins of an ancient building, said to have belonged to the O'Boyles.

On an island in the lake of Kiltorus, are the ruins of an old building; a rusty six-pounder lies just near it; this is off Boylagh near Mr. Hamilton's of Eden; not a vestige of tradition relates one tittle about it; the name, which is compounded of *Kil* a church and *torus* a station, seems to indicate its being consecrated of old, like many other islands of Ireland, to that watery and superstitious devotion, which, as Tacitus informs us, had been in practice among the Gauls, and which most probably the Firbolgs, who came from that country, introduced among us.

*Fort Stewart castle*—Lies a little north east of Sir James Stewart's on Lough Swilly; it was built by Sir William Stewart patentee of James the 1st.

*Castle of Buit*—Was built by Sir Cathir O'Dogh-  
herty

berthy in the 15th. century, and by him also was built the *castle of Inch*, both on Lough Swilly.

*Castle of Doe*—Or Mac Swine's castle, is situated on Cannon-point a peninsula, but little broader than its extent, on the bay of Ards, to the demesne of which it appears in various handsome views. It was built by a lady of the name of Quin, who afterwards married one of the Mc'Swine family, a couple of years before the reign of Queen Elizabeth; it was since then fortified with a strong bawn by the grandfather of the present Mr. Mc'Swine of Dunfanaghy; it was only of small extent, but very strong, and surrounded by a deep fosse, which admitted the sea-water on the land side.

*Green Castle* is on the western bank of Lough-foyle, just at its expansion into the ocean, said to have been built by Sir Cathir O'Dogherty. It stands on a rock boldly prominent on the ocean, measuring 100 yards long by 56 broad, and 45 feet high. The walls are in most parts twelve feet broad, the most part of which are still entire; many portions of the wall have fallen from the top, and remained entire after the tumble; one fragment in particular, which fell forty feet off the top of the south-west tower, measures thirty feet round, by thirteen high, and so strongly cemented are the stones of it, that no flint rock can be harder. It seems evidently to have been intended for the defence of that bay.

The

The great extent of this building; the gables, towers, and chimneys, still so high and so numerous, and its bold projection on the water, give it every air of a magnificent ruin.

On the west of this building, a slope of fertile country ascends to the neighbouring mountains: almost on the opposite side of Loughfoyle, appears the Earl of Bristol's palace, the temple and mausoleum all standing in a stately style upon the ocean. The shipping in the harbour, and the elongation of Fairhead cape on the water form one of those ever varying and peculiar novelties of view, which in this northern region give singular pleasure.

In the deer-park of Castleforward, in the beech grove, is a flag five feet in diameter, perfectly circular, and regularly indented with holes half an inch deep, and one inch diameter; it is raised on other stones eighteen inches high.

Is this a druidical altar?

Is it and its hieroglyphics emblematic of lun or worship?

Or what then?

### *Monasteries.*

*Astrath* on the river Erne, near the town of Ballyshannon, anciently called *Easrúadh* and by other names: an abbey was founded here in 1178 by Roderic

## OF THE COUNTY OF DONEGAL. 103

Roderic O'Cananan, prince of Tyrconnel, for monks of the Cistercian order.

He was slain in battle by O'Flahertach, who succeeded him. Some writers make O'Flahertach the founder; War. Mon. This abbey was a daughter of that of Boyle; in 1241 Donnell more O'Donnell, king of the countries of Tyrconnel and Fermanagh, secluded himself from the troubles of the world, expired in peace in this abbey, and was interred therein the same year. The abbot Lawrence O'Lachlan was about this time removed to Boyle.

In 1377 the abbey was consumed by fire.

In 1379 O'Donnell king of Tyrconnel was murdered by his own brother, and buried here; King p. 403.

By an inquisition taken in the thirty-first of Queen Elizabeth, the abbot was found to have been seized of the site of the abbey and village, containing three acres, in which was a cemetery, a church, and steeple, partly covered with shingles and partly with thatch, the ruins of a dormitory, three other stone buildings, and four small cottages with their cartelages, and which without repairing were of no value. Fifty-three quarters of land, and the fourth of half a quarter being near the abbey, and the demesne thereof; it was subdivided into abillyboes, each containing the eighth part of a quarter, called Behy, Tuflaghcorke, &c. Grange of Tawnyshintallen in O'Boyle's country,  
Grange

Grange near the mountain of Kyseure, Grange of Kiltiernan in Fermanagh of the value of £.7 11s. 4d. an annual rent of 3s. 4d. out of the island Ilan, Raghyn Ivyme, in the country of Tyrebaan; ten weirs on the river Erne, value £.10 sterling. The abbot had the liberty of having two fishermen to take salmon during the season, at Asseroe on the river Erne; he was also entitled to the second draught of every one fishing there, when they began to fish; also to have a boat to take salmon and other fish from the island to the sea, value yearly 3s. 4d. The rectory of Tyreragh extended from the abbey lands to the mountain of Barnesmore, being the third part of all the tithes (salmon excepted, which did belong to the bishop) which rectory is valued at 30s. sterling. The abbot and convent had, beside, three parts of all the tithes of the quarter of Callamurry, Cashill, Moyntir, Dooyne, five ballyboes of Carrooshee, the quarter of Caroshee, six ballyboes of Ballymayard, and the quarter of Kildony and Kilbany, which were worth, besides the stipends of the curates, £.1 13s. 8d. yearly; King p. 403.

This detailed account to some may appear very unnecessary, to others extremely curious and interesting.

*Bailemagrabhartagh.*—This church in Innishowen, and diocess of Derry, was founded by St. Colomb.

Tr,



Tr. Th. p. 495. and another monastery of the same name was founded by the same Saint in Tirdaedha in the diocess of Raphoe, where the celebrated relique of S. Columb, called Cathach, was said to have been preserved.

These monasteries are now unknown.

*Bally M'Swiny*.—Near Castle Doe, in the barony of Kilmacrennan ; a monastery was founded here by M'Swine, for friars of the order of St. Francis; War. Mon.

Some of the ruins are still extant.

*Bellaghan*.—Wares Mon. says a friary had been here; there is now no vestige or account of it.

*Bathchonais*.—In Inneshowen ; this was formerly a great and celebrated abbey, Act. ss. p. 108. of which St. Coemgal, brother to St. Cele Christus, who died A. D. 1721, and a different person from the Saint of Bangor, was abbot. Ann. 4 masters.

There are said to be, but I could not find them, many books written by the hand of St. Maelisa, which formerly belonged to this abbey, still preserved in the hands of some of the religious of this neighbourhood.

St. Maelisa was educated here, and died A. D. 1086. Act. ss. p. 108.

*Clonleigh*.—North of Lifford on the river Foyle, in the barony of Raphoe ; St. Columb built the church of Cluainleodh, where St. Lugad, one of his disciples, is honoured

honoured. St. Carnech was bishop and abbot here about the year 530, and was succeeded by Cassan, whose successor was Massan. Clonleigh, we apprehend, was anciently called Cruachanligean or Druimligean. This is now a parish church in the diocese of Derry.

*Cluainénach*.—An abbey was founded here by St. Columb; Crag his disciple was abbot of it. This is now a chapel in Innishowen, three miles north of Derry.

*Clonmany*.—Situate near the sea; St. Columb is said to have built it; it was formerly very rich, but is now a parish church in the diocese of Derry.

*Conwall*.—Near the river Swilly, in the barony of Kilmacrennan. Fiachry was abbot of Congball, in the territory of Gleann-suilege in Tyrconnel, and of Clonard in the county of Meath; he died about the year 587. Annal. Munst. Now a parish church.

*Cnodkin*.—Lies to the north of the river Erne near Astrath, in the barony of Boylagh. St. Conan was abbot here about the end of the sixth century. Act. *ss.* p. 563.

*Domnachglenns Tochuir*.—St. Patrick founded this church, and made Maccarthen, brother to the Saint of Clogher, bishop of it. This is now a parish church in Innishowen, and remarkable for the great resort of pilgrims on St. Patrick's day. Here is still preserved the Saint's penitential bed,  
and

and many other ancient monuments of that kind, fit objects for the devotion of the pilgrims. The church is near to Eas-mac-eirc, the remarkable cataract of Sliabh Sneachta.

*Donegal*—Is situated on a bay, to which it gives its name, in the barony of Tyrhugh. A monastery for Franciscan friars of the strict observance, was founded here in the year 1474 by Odo Roe, son of Nial Garbh O'Donnell prince of Tyrconnel, and by his wife Fionguala daughter of Connor na Srona O'Brien, prince of Thomond. Odo the founder died in 1505, Roderic O'Donnell bishop of Derry, who died about 1550, was interred here; there was in this house a well chosen library; War. Mon.

At a small distance from the town, the remains of this monastery may be seen; the cloister consists of small arches supported by couplets of pillars on a basement. In one part are two narrow passages, one over the other, about four feet wide, ten long, and seven high; they seem to have been places for depositing valuable effects in times of danger: the upper one is covered with stones laid along the beams of stone, that cross it, and the lower one with stones laid across on the water; each of them is exactly after the Egyptian manner of building; and in a building over it, are plain marks of a regular Roman pediment, although some other building had been erected against it.

*Drum-*

*Drumhome*.—On the bay of Donegal, in the barony of Tyrhugh. St. Ernon, who was named also St. Ernoc, or Mernoc, as we are informed, was abbot of Druimthuoma; he died a very old man, about the year 640. This house had been a celebrated monastery.—Tr. Th. p. 495. Flathertoch O'Maldory, king of Tyrconnel, was buried here in 1197.—War. Annal. Drumhome is now a parish church.

*Fahan*—Six miles north-west of Derry, on Lough Swilly, in Innishowen. St. Columb founded the church of Fathenmura. St. Colman Imromha was abbot of Fathenmura. A. D. 637, the abbot St. Kellach, the son of Saran, died here. In 716, tradition says, that a shower of hail, like silver, fell upon Fathen major, as did honey, in great abundance, on Fathan minor, *and that in Leinster it rained blood*: Tr. Th. p. 510.

This noble monastery was richly endowed, and for many centuries was held in the highest veneration, as well for the reverence paid to St. Muran, to whom the great church is dedicated, as for the many monuments of antiquity, which remained here till destroyed after the reformation. Among the few reliques, that were preserved, was the book of the Acts of St. Columb, written by St. Muran in Irish verse, some fragments of which still remain; also a very large and ancient chronicle, held in great repute, &c. &c. and the

the pastoral staff of St. Muran, richly ornamented with jewels and gilding, is still preserved by the O'Neills: many miracles, it is said, have been wrought by it; and the people of the country, especially the family of the O'Neills, take their oaths upon it in the decision of controversies.—Act. SS. p. 587. Fahan is now a parish church in the diocese of Derry.

*Fanegarah*.—A small house, for friars of the third order of St. Francis, was built here by M'Ruinifaig.

*Garton*.—Lies two miles west of Kilmacrennan, where St. Columb founded a monastery, which is now a parish church in the diocese of Raphoe.

*Hilfothuir*.—An abbey was founded here, for monks of the Cistercian order, A. D. 1194, by O'Dogherty; it was a daughter of the abbey of Asr hoe, and in process of time was united to it.—Allemande.

*Inver*.—On the sea-shore, in the barony of Boylagh and Bannagh, and five miles east of Killibeggs. St. Natalis, who died A. D. 563, was abbot of Inbhernaille in Tyrconnel, and also of Kilnaille in Breffny, and of Daminis, or Devenish. A small monastery was founded here, in the fifteenth century, for friars of the third order of St. Francis, and probably on the very site of the ancient abbey of St. Natalis: it was granted by King James I. to James, Viscount Clancabriggs, who assigned to Arthur, Lord Chichester.

*Inniskeel*,

*Inniskcel*,—An island lying off the barony of Boylagh and Bannagh. St. Conald Coel was abbot of Inniscoel, and is honoured here on the 12th of May: St. Dallan wrote a work in his praise; he was killed by pirates about the year 590, and was interred with his friend: his festival is held on January the 29th. Here is a celebrated well, which, with the church, is dedicated to St. Conald, and yearly visited by a great concourse of pilgrims, on the 12th of May.—Butler's Journey.

*Inis Samar*,—An island in the bay of Donegal, at the mouth of the river Erne. There seems to have been a religious house on this island, for we find that Flaherty O'Maoldorc, King of Conall, or Tyrconnel, Innishowen, and of the districts of Easlara and Loughgelle, having renounced the cares of the world, and dedicated himself to heaven, died in this island in the year 1197.—Annal. Munst.

This little island is a very few yards broad, and not more than about fifty long. No trace of a religious house.

*Kilbaron*.—On the bay of Donegal, in the barony of Tyrhugh. St. Columb founded the church of Kilbarrind, near Earruadh. Barrind, who flourished about the year 590, gave his name to this church, and was bishop of it, and also of Druimcullin: it is now a parish church in the diocese of Raphoe.—Lib. Visit.

*Kilchartaich*,

*Kilchartaich.*—St. Cartách was bishop of Killen, now called Kilchartaich, about the year 540: his festival is observed on the fifth of March. This church was situated in Tirboguín, a territory in Tyrconnel, and is supposed to be Kilcar, which is now a parish church, in the diocese of Raphoe.—Act. SS. p. 474.

*Killibeggs.*—A seaport and borough town, in the barony of Boyleagh and Bannagh. A small house was built here, for friars of the order of St. Francis, by Mac Swine-banning.—Allemande.

*Kilmacrennan.*—On the river Glannan, though now a poor depopulated town, gives name to the barony.

St. Columb founded an abbey here, which was richly endowed; and O'Donnell founded a small house here, probably on the site of the ancient abbey, for friars of the order of St. Francis: the present church is supposed to be part of the friary; over the door is a mitred head in relievo. Near to this town is a rock, on which the O'Donnells, princes of Tyrconnel, were always inaugurated.—War. Annal.

The church bears no appearance of having been part of the friary. On minute enquiry I found, that about a hundred yards north of the church, the remains of the walls of some buildings were discovered in digging up a soft bottom; this, most probably, is the foundation of the monastery belonging to the church, the walls of which are still nearly entire.

*Rathmellan.*—Here O'Donnell built a small monastery, for Franciscan friars; the walls still visible.

*Lough Dearg.*—This famous pilgrimage is in the parish of Templecarn, and barony of Tyrhugh. On this lake there are several islands; the largest is called the island of St. Dabeoc, some call it St. Fintan's island, and others the Island of Saints.—(Richardson's Folly of Pilgrimages.)

In this island was a priory of Canons regular, following the rule of St. Augustin, which was dedicated to the saints Peter and Paul, and founded, as some say, by the great apostle of Ireland, but others give the foundation of it to St. Dabeoc—*Annal. Munst.*—who was also called Mobeoc and Beonan; he was brother to St. Canoc, who flourished about the year 492. St. Dabeoc is patron of this church, where three festivals are held to his honour yearly. It had a fine chapel, with convenient houses for the monks, the remains of which are yet to be seen. One of the St. Patricks was prior here about the year 850.—*War. Mon.*

Notwithstanding the reputed holiness of this celebrated monastery, it was plundered and reduced to ashes by Bratachas O'Boyle and M'Mahon, A. D. 1207, *Annal. Munst.* John was prior in 1353.—*Ogygia.*

St. Patrick's Purgatory, as it is called, was first fixed in this island; but it being near to the shore,  
and



and a bridge from the main land giving the people a free and easy access to it, the cave was closed up, and another was opened in a lesser island, about half a mile from the shore.

Some people have given the invention of this purgatory to the great St. Patrick; but others, with more probability, ascribe it to Patrick, who was prior here about the year 850.—War. Mon.

The reader will have thought he had enough about Lough-dearg; but the following particulars are worth his attention:

This purgatory continued a long time in repute, both at home and abroad: we find in our records several safe conducts granted by the Kings of England to foreigners desirous to visit it; and particularly in the year 1358, to Maletesta Ungarus, knight; another bearing the same date, to Nicholas de Beccario, a nobleman of Ferrara—Rymer's *Fœdera*, T. 6. p. 107; and in 1397, one to Raymond, Viscount de Perilleux and Knight of Rhodes, with a train of twenty men and thirty horses.—*Id.* T. 8. p. 14. But this purgatory must have fallen afterwards into disrepute, for we find, that by the authority of the Pope, Alexander VI. (he having considered the same in the light of imposition) it was demolished, on St. Patrick's day, A. D. 1497, by the father guardian of the Franciscans of Donegal, and some other persons of the deanery of Lough Erne, who were deputed for this

purpose by the bishop. A canon of the priory of St. Daboec usually resided on the island, for the service of the church and pilgrims.—Mon. Hib. p. 103.

The extent of this island is scarcely three quarters of an Irish acre; the cave of the purgatory is built of freestone, and covered with broad flags, and green turf laid over them; in length within the walls, it measures sixteen feet and a half, and in breadth about two feet and one inch; when the door is shut no light can be discovered, save what enters at a small window in a corner,—War. Mon.; and here the males and females do penance together. It was here that Carolan, the famous Irish poet and musician, recollected the feel of a lady's hand he had been in love with twenty years before. In 1630, the government of Ireland thought fit to have it finally suppressed, and it was accordingly dug up, to the no small distress and loss of the R. C. clergy.—War. Annals.

But in the memory of the oldest persons I ever heard speak of it, the resort of pilgrims from all parts of Ireland has always been immense: the purgatory, if ever dug up, is now rebuilt, and in the middle of the summer as devoutly and numerously frequented as ever!

*Movill.*—On Lough-foyle, in Innishowen, St. Patrick founded the monastery of *Domnachbile*, commonly called *Maghbile*, and placed there *Aengusius*,

sins, the son of Olild. For some time this was in high repute, and we meet with the following abbots of it; A. D. 590, Finian flourished; 953, Aengus M'Loingsy, &c.

*Magheribegg*,—Or the little plain, near the town of Donegal. A monastery was founded here by O'Donnell, about the middle of the fifteenth century, for Franciscans.—War. Mon. Allemande,

*Mawlin*,—On the sea-side in Innishowen. Here we find a very ancient church, which is said to have been a monastery.—Pococke's Journal, quoted by Mon. Hib. p. 103.

The difference between any church, ancient or modern, and a monastery, is too visible for mistaking one for the other.

I met none of this description here: it probably, however, is near this old church, or the site of it, that a famous pilgrimage is performed, on some certain day in summer, at a creek of the sea, which comes in among the rocks of Mawlin-head, by dropping a great number of beads; some walking on their legs, some on their knees, and some stationary, all vehemently whispering prayers: but the ceremony finishes something like the Indian Tamarodee, by a general ablution in the sea, male and female, all frisking and playing in the water, stark naked, and washing off each other's sins.

*Muckish*

*Muckish*.—Appears in the map to be four and a half miles from the castle of Doe, in the barony of Kilmacrennan; yet Bishop Pococke observes, that when he visited that country he could not hear of such an abbey.—Mon. Hib. p. 104. There is a huge mountain of that name, within the above distance of Doe castle and the sea, but no monastery.

*Raphoe*.—A small town, which gives name to the barony. St. Columb founded an extensive monastery at Rathboth, and died in 596. St. Adamnan, abbot of Hy, and patron and restorer of this monastery, died in 703; about which time Raphoe became, and continues to be, the seat of a bishop.

*Rathcunga*.—In the barony of Tyrhugh. St. Patrick founded an abbey here, in which St. Assicus, and five other bishops, were interred.

*Ratheanich*.—In Innishowen. St. Brugach, the son of Degad, was bishop of Ratheanich, about the beginning of the sixth century—Act. ss. p. 501; from which time nothing can be learnt about it.

*Rathene*.—A church in the diocese of Raphoe and commonly called Rathnanepsco. St. Aidglass fixed his residence here, where his festival is observed on the 16th of February.

*Rathmullin*.—A house was built here for Carmelite white friars, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary by Mac Swine-fannagh.

*Seingleann*.

*Seingleann*.—Was a celebrated abbey founded by the great St. Columb; in process of time it became a parish church, and is in the diocese of Raphoe.

*Taughboyne*.—St. Baithen, the son of Brendan, a disciple and kinsman of St. Columb, and his successor in the abbey of Hy, founded Teghbaoithin, that is the house of Baithen in Tyrconnel; this saint flourished in 584. Taughboyne is now a parish church in the diocese of Raphoe.

*Torre island*.—An island extremely fertile, situate about 8 miles from the main land of the barony of Kilmacrennan: there was an abbey here, of which St. Ernan, the son of Colman, was abbot, about the year 650.—Act. SS. p. 17.

In Torrey island, which is now very infertile, being overwhelmed with sand, there are seven churches, a great part of the walls of many of them up; here is also a round tower of singular shape, being wider in diameter and more conical at top; it also is a place of pilgrimage; the clay found in one of those churches is in profound veneration among the vulgar, as a preserver from fire, banisher of rats, &c.

*Tullyaugnish*.—Near Lough Swilly, in Kilmacrennan, Saint Columb founded an abbey at Tulachdubglaisse. Tr. Th. p. 494. It is now a parish church.

*Uskechavin*.—In Innishowen; an abbey was founded here by St. Columb, which is now a parish church. Tr. Th. p. 495.

*Churches, resident clergy, glebes and glebe-houses.*

In the county of Donegal there are 42 parishes, 43 churches, 25 glebes, and 16 glebe houses; the clergy are resident and attentive to their duty.

The patronage of 31 of those parishes, which are in the diocese of Raphoe, is divided between the crown, which has the disposal of 6 parishes, the bishop who has that of 15, the university of Dublin 7, and lay hands which dispose of 3.

The patronage of some parts of the dioceses of Derry and Clogher, which extend into this county, is distributed in a manner not very dissimilar to the above.

In the small town of Raphoe, there is a very neat though not a large cathedral, which serves also for a parish church, and the bishop's palace is an old but convenient edifice.

*Whether the county has been actually surveyed, when and whether the survey is published.*

The county has been actually surveyed, and, it is generally thought, extremely well and accurately  
by

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by Mr. M'Crea a few years ago; the survey is so far published, that in assizes times it is exhibited in the Grand jury room; it is not as yet engraved, but soon will; Mr. Beaufort has by permission of the Grand jury taken a reduced copy of it; this he acknowledges in the notes, which accompany his map of Ireland; this reduced map of Mr. Beaufort's shall be affixed to this Report.

*Weights and measures, liquid and dry, in what instances are weights assigned for measure, or vice versâ.*

The dry measures and weights are troy and avoirdupois weights and pecks; the liquid are pints, gallons, &c. as throughout Ireland.

From Ballybofey to the sea, potatoes are generally sold by measure, each measure supposed to contain 8 stone, but no punishment is annexed to fraud.

Oaten and barley meal is sometimes sold by the peck, supposed to contain ten pounds. Those are the principal instances, in which measure is substituted to weight.

*The*

*The weight or measure, by which grain, flour, potatoes, butter, &c. are sold.*

All by avoirdupois weight. The custom was of selling oats by measure, but it is quite abolished.

*Baron Pynnar's Survey of Donegal.*

It may not be incurious, after the division and plantation of the six escheated counties of Ulster, among British and Scottish undertakers by King James I., to see a sketch of a survey of those plantations, taken by Captain Nicholas Pynnar, by order of that Prince, in 1618, for the purpose of seeing if the conditions were performed by the settlers.

These conditions were reported by him, to have been so miserably defective, as to have given strength enough to the adverse party, to commence a desperate rebellion in a few years afterwards.

Harris's Hibernica, p. 92.

COUNTY



COUNTY OF DONEGAL.

*The precinct of Boyleagh and Bannagh, allotted to  
Scottish undertakers.*

John Murray, Esq. hath 10,000 acres, being all  
Boyleagh and Bannagh, planted as follows:—

The Lady Brombe was the first patentee, 2000 acres.

Captain Thomas Dutton, 2000 acres, called Rosses,  
but newly come into it, and not assurance from  
Mr. Murray.

Sir Patrick Mc. Ke first patentee—John Murray,  
Esq. hath 1000 acres, called Cargie.

Patrick Vaus first patentee—John Murray hath 1000  
acres called Boyleagh-outra: this is set to Wm.  
Hamilton, Gent., and to some others.

William Stewart first patentee—John Murray, Esq.  
hath 1500 acres, called Dunconally. James  
Toddy and others have taken this for some years.

Alexander

Alexander Dunbar first patentee—John Murray, Esq.  
hath 1000 acres, let to Rowland Cogwell and  
others, called Kilkeran.

The Lady Broughton first patentee—John Murray,  
Esq. hath 1000 acres, called Ballagh-eightra, all  
inhabited by Irish.

Alexander Conyngham hath 1000 acres, called Moy-  
nagan, from the said John Murray.

Jas. M'Culloch hath 1000 acres, called Mullaghveh.

*Precincts of Portlough, appointed to Scottish  
undertakers.*

John Conyngham, 1000 acres, called Donboy.

James Conyngham, 1000 acres, called Moyah.

Sir James Conyngham, 2000 acres, called Decas-  
trose, and Portlogh.

Cuthbert Conyngham, 1000 acres, called Dromagh,  
or Cool Mc. Treen.

William Stewart, Laird of Dunduff, 1000 acres,  
called Coolaghie.

Alexander M'Awley, alias Stewart, 1000 acres, called  
Ballyneagh.

Laird

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Laird of Lusse, 1000 acres, called Corgagh.

Sir John Stewart, 3000 acres, called Cashel, Ketin,  
and Littergull.

Sir John Stewart, aforesaid, 1000 acres, called Liss-  
moldmohan.

*Precinct of Liffer, allotted to English undertakers.*

Peter Benson, 1500 acres, called Shraghmicklar.

William Wilson, 2000 acres, called Aghagalla.

Sir Thomas Cornwall first patentee—Thomas Davis  
holdeth from Robert Davis 2000 acres, called  
Corlackin.

Captain Mansfield hath 1000 acres, called Killene-  
girdon.

Captain Russel first patentee—Sir John Kingsmill,  
Knt. hath 1500 acres, called Acarine.

Sir R. Remington first patentee—Sir Ralph Bingley,  
Knt. hath 2000 acres, called Tonafocies.

Sir Maurice Bartley, first patentee—Sir Ralph Bing-  
ley hath 2000 acres, called Dromore and Lur-  
gagh.

Sir T. Coach, Knt. hath 1500 acres, called Lisnongan.

Sir

Sir William Barns first patentee—Sir John Kingsmill, Knt. and Mr. Wilson, have 1500 acres, called Monister.

*Precinct of Kilmacrennan, allotted to Servitors  
and Natives.*

Captain Craiford first patentee—Sir George Marburie hath 1000 acres, called Letterkenny.

Sir J. Kingsmill, Knt. 1000 acres, called Ballamalley.

Sir W. Stewart, Knt. 1000 acres, called Gortavaghie.

Sir Basil Brooke, Knt. 1000 acres, called Edonecarne.

Sir T. Chichester, Knt. 1000 acres, called Radonnell.

Sir John Vaughan first patentee—John Wray, Esq. 1000 acres, called Carnegille.

Arthur Terrie, 2000 acres, called Moyris.

Captain Henry Harte, 1000 acres, called Ballenas.

Sir Richard Hansard first patentee—Sir William Stewart, Knt. hath 1000 acres, called Ramelton.

Sir John Vaughan, 1000 acres,

Captain Paul Gore, 1000 acres.

Lieutenant Perkins hath 172 acres, called Facker.

Lieutenant

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Lieutenant Ellis first patentee—Nathaniel Rowley  
hath 400 acres, called Loughnemuck.

Lieutenant Browne first patentee—Nathaniel Rowley  
hath 528 acres, called Cranrasse.

Lieutenant Gale first patentee—William Lynn hath  
108 acres, called Caroreagh—and 240 acres,  
called Largaurack.

Sir Richard Bingley first patentee—Captain Sanford  
hath 500 acres, called Castledoe.

Sir Mulmorie M'Swine, 2000 acres, called Moynt-  
mellan.

Mc. Swyne Banagh, 2000 acres, called Leanagh and  
Corragh.

Tirlogh Roe O'Boyle, 2000 acres, called Carrogh-  
bleagh and Clomas.

Donnell M'Swine Farne, 2000 acres, called Roindo-  
herg and Carocomony.

Walter M'Loughlin M'Swine, 896 acres, called Bally-  
cany and Ragh.





